

Legeros Fire Blog Archives - 2010 Postings Compiled, Part 2

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.

Second Annual Rekindle Society Muster and Parade, Mar. 27, 2010

02/01/10 111 W, 3 I - + 13 - 4

The [Rekindle Society](#), the Carolinas chapter of SPAAMFAA, passes along this announcement of their second annual muster and parade in Cheraw, SC, on Saturday, March 27, 2010. They're looking looking for apparatus and or equipment to be displayed, paraded, or pumped. They also seek fire safety displays, firefighter challenge participants, and vendors for a flea market area. There are no requirements for apparatus or equipment, other than it has to be insured. In service/out of service, new/old, it's all good to them. Here's [their interest form](#) , if you're interested. And click below to [read their flyer](#) .



Thanks for getting our flyer up so quick. I hope we can get alot of apparatus and spectators out to the event.

T Henshaw ([Web Site](#)) - 02/01/10 - 22:41

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Walt Disney Study Prints

02/01/10 118 W, 11 I - + 12 - 4

Another reader passes along photos of a set of Walt Disney Study Prints on the subject of fire prevention. Looks like they date to the late 1960s, based on other study print sets for sale on eBay. Google finds that Walt Disney first lent his characters for fire prevention ads in 1942, after the US Forest Service began educating Americans about the dangers of forest fires during World War II. [Read more on that](#), including the 9,000-some fire balloons launched into the jet stream by Japanese hoping to start wildfires. Can't as easily find a history about Disney's study prints, though their purpose seems self-evident. Perhaps readers can add or enlighten. Click to enlarge:



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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.

RJR Fire Protection Patroller

02/02/10 69 W, 1 I - + 9 - 5

Here's something interesting found [for sale on eBay](#), a patch for an Fire Patroller, presumably a person who was a wandering fire watcher at an R.J. Reynolds tobacco plant in North Carolina. No other information known. Don't even have a good historical context in this case, on fire watching at industrial plants and other facilities. Memo to self: learn about that some time.



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East Wake Volunteer Fire Department, 1987

02/03/10 140 W - + 6 - 7

That was the name of a new fire district that county commissioners tentatively approved in the fall of 1987, as part of a plan to provide closer service to 6,300 people in the "no man's land" between Knightdale and Rolesville. The commissioners recommended creation of the new district after the existing departments failed during the summer to agree on a coverage plan. Said departments quickly came back to the table after the above proposal, and agreed to divide coverage of the area between Knightdale, Rolesville, Wendell-Holmes, and Wake-New Hope. Additionally, two substations would be built by Wendell and New Hope. What happened next? Don't know specifically, but those districts was expanded, and the substations were built and remain operational today. Bit o' trivia. Source: *News & Observer*, October 5, 1987, which we happened upon the other day.

Is this the station we now call Eastern Wake Fire-rescue on poole rd

NcFFF - 02/03/10 - 23:03

Negative. The aforementioned mentioned East Wake FD was apparently never created. Eastern Wake FD is a different entity that was created 15 years later, and under different circumstances.

Legeros - 02/03/10 - 23:07

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Greensboro Salvage Truck, 1955

02/04/10 160 W, 1 I - + 9 - 6

Salvage trucks are a common historical fixture in fire departments "up north" and in other major metropolitan cities around the country. Some departments operated dedicated salvage companies, or even separate salvage corps, the most famous being the [New York Fire Patrol](#). Their 203-year history started with a group of volunteers who worked to protect the contents of buildings from fire and water damage.

Were salvage trucks, or even salvage companies used in North Carolina? Below is the first salvage truck that Mr. Blogger has happened across. Pictured in front of Greensboro's Central Station in 1955 is their "new salvage truck, built to the specifications" of the department. It carried "all normal and many specialized tools for salvage work." It appeared in the June 1955 issue of *Hose & Nozzle*. Don't any other details, such as how it responded, or how long it operated. Perhaps our readers can advise.



Hose & Nozzle photo

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Longest Lays?

02/04/10 52 W, 1 I - + 8 - 8

For pre-weekend discussion, what are some of the longest supply lines that you've laid in your day? When, where, and how far? Did you use booster pumpers? Share your stories. For extra credit, can you identify this line laid in more recent times?



the last long (more than 1 truck) lay I remember was the Malbay Lane fire, 2400 feet of 5" with an Engine at the hydrant.

AB - 02/04/10 - 21:56

Looks like there should be one on that plug too....pressure might be great, but you never know until you turn it in.

Silver - 02/05/10 - 00:09

As a caveat... "Humat at the hydrant." It's a good tool to use if hydrant is already committed and you have a long lay where "boosting" is needed due to supply line friction loss. I have data on the effectiveness of the Humat Valve as we tested it on A-Shift. We found it to be very effective when higher flows were required from the initial attack GPM needs. Remember, as your flow doubles, your FL increases by a factor of "4". A stand-alone 5" from the hydrant is often deemed as a "no friction loss" situation, however if there is a long lay and/or high flows are eventually needed, oh well, oops... Coming to a RFD near you soon... Contact me offline and I'll discuss the hydraulics, application, and/or get our data to you. (no, I'm not a salesperson).

A.C. Rich - 02/05/10 - 01:11

Some of the time it should be in place, whether it's a Humat or just an engine doing the work. Well put A.C., I think you have your gig lined up after you retire!!!

Silver - 02/05/10 - 01:27

Apex put almost 2000' of 5" on the ground in 2008 for a mulch fire that the smoke was causing problems around town. Shut down the old part of Hwy 55 for most of the day. No pumper to boost pressure in the middle best I remeber had pretty good pressure just to be spraying water on a large pile of mulch.

[apexfire] - 02/05/10 - 01:40

What the hell is a Humat, you ask? Brand of hydrant value, a four-way valve, read about it here, <http://www.humat.com/>

Legeros - 02/05/10 - 07:33

Bearpond VFD, Henderson NC. Sept of 2006, Mulch yard on fire. 2800' of five inch with engine boosting pressure from Hydrant.

R. Finch - 02/05/10 - 08:12

Longest I have ever seen was 3600' in Prince William Co, Va about 11 years ago at a salvage yard/ multiple structure fire... 4 engines total...1 forward laid in, the other 3 reversed and they put an "in-line" engine every 1000' and one on the hydrant to maintain pressure. Crews stayed out on that scene for almost a week.

The longest I have done since relocating here was last year and it was only about 1500'

Wayne - 02/05/10 - 10:30

Hahaha Jeff, you're funny (sometimes), but really no gig... I actually plan on being a male fashion model when I retire! I was VERY speculative of the performance of the Humat device when we tested it – we also tested the Akron model #627

<http://www.akronbrass.com/uploadedFiles/..> ; These devices do have a place in municipal and "rural" water supply where hydrants are used (although they are expensive). If you put a pumper at the hydrant when you start your water supply efforts, all is well. However when a FD encounters a situation where they initially straight lay from the hydrant (as we all do), AND the fire conditions intensify requiring more flow, the device is priceless for boosting pressure. I can't make a hydrant "better," but will help overcome the friction loss in the LDH when you attempt higher flows. In my (debatable) opinion, these devices are good tools to connect to a hydrant FIRST on any 5" forward lay.

On aside, and old School... 3" hose, single 3" 700ft, then reversed dual 3" 1000ft (~500gpm flows). It's the "po folks" LDH in a rural area with homes "off the road" and cul-de-sacs, with tanker shuttles to a drop tank based drafting point.

A.C. Rich - 02/05/10 - 12:03

Hey Raymond, You fire was the longest I have ever drafted from a pond. Seems like it was about 4 hours from the front sunction with 3 sections of hard suction. Seems like the best I could do was around 600gpm for the deck gun about 400" away.

Rob Mitchell - 02/05/10 - 12:29

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Reader Mail

02/04/10 502 W - + 8 - 5

The gasbag opens the mailbag. Sundry messages and comments from readers, and smarmy answers therein:

Q: How much censoring have you had to do regarding the [Fire Commission Meeting thread](#)?

A: Very little. A couple anonymous pot shots were leveled at named entities. As was a signed one, which I deleted, after reflecting on libel law. The poster understood.

Q: I want to get a scanner that will receive anything fire-related in Wake County. Can you give me an idea of what type of scanner? I do fire training at Wake Tech, and would like to be able to monitor training and to maybe use it for classes.

A: [This blog thread](#) should answer your question.

Q: Can you start a blog [thread] about the firefighters being fired in Georgia? I am sure you have heard about it.

A: The story of the DeKalb County incident has been well-covered on other fire sites and blog. There is a [surprisingly level-headed discussion](#) on same, however, on the firehouse.com forums. Tool on over there and pay a visit.

Q: Hey Mike, it looks like you captured a ghost [in this picture](#). Look in the bottom right-hand corner of the photo, in the top of the smoke, about even with the head of the firefighter on the ground.

A: Wow!

Q: Not sure if you've seen this or not, but it might be something to blog about. It's an article on the North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Foundation web site titled [Are You Prepared to Prevent a Line of Duty Death?](#)

A: Very cool, and a very worthy subject.

Q: As a police officer who scans the other radio channels, and a long-time blog lurker (mostly), I have a question that perhaps only you can answer. (And that's because nobody else will admit to knowing the answer.) Do you have a list of what EMS units are based out what station? If, say, Raleigh Engine 2 is dispatched somewhere, I know there's a good chance that the call is on Raleigh's south side. But when EMS 1, EMS 51, or EMS 122 are dispatched, I have no idea where they normally hang out. I realize that they're always "moving up," because of AVL. But they all start out "somewhere." Do you have a resource that will help?

A: Working on same as we speak! As for unit numbers in general, see [this posting from 2007](#). That'll get you started.

Q: Can you [start a thread] about the Reedy Creek Road fire? There have been some interesting questions raised about Western Wake Station 2's closure and that fire.

A: You can start your own thread over on the [Watch Desk](#). Or send me a private message with ideas for blog topics. That said, is there a worthy discussion to be had about that fire, and within that context? The station is closed. The station closure process is suspended. Nobody likes quarterbacking. Ditto with dead horses. Maybe everything has already been said on that subject?

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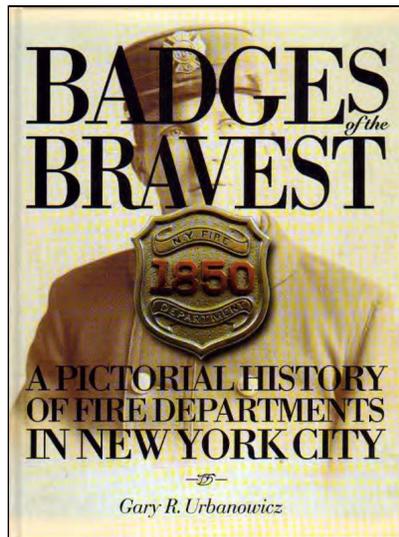
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Book Recommendation - Badges of the Bravest

02/05/10 146 W, 1 I - + 10 - 6

By Gary R. Urbanowicz. Hardcover. 272 pages. Turner Publishing, 2002. Splendid, full-color history of the New York City Fire Department, as seen through the context of its badges. And as the nation's largest and thus perhaps most history-filled department, the badges and their histories represent every seeming facet of the American fire service: Volunteers. Paid personnel. Early associations and organizations. The New York Fire Patrol. Firefighters. Officers. Marine Division. Appointed positions. Special details, such as Housewatch, Theater Detail, and Photographer. Civilian and uniformed support position, such as Inspector, Communications, Repairs & Transportation, Accounts & Procurement. Band and glee clubs. Auxiliary corps. Salvage corps. Honorary members. Buffs. Associations, societies, and clubs. Special event badges. Presentation badges. EMS badges. Private fire brigades and departments. Federal fire departments. Related city agencies. State fire services. You get the picture. Bought my copy on Amazon.



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ConAgra Blast Could Lead to New Safety Laws

02/05/10 191 W, 1 I - + 9 - 6

Today's *News & Observer* has a recap of yesterday's meeting of the U.S. Chemical Safety Board in Raleigh, which voted to recommend to changes to national fire codes to prevent the type of explosion that occurred at the ConAgra plant in Garner on June 9, 2009. The blast killed four people, and injured 67 others. The unsafe practice cited by the board is purging natural gas inside a structure. They cited other similar explosions that have killed or injured others. [Read the article](#). There's also more detailed information in this [CSB press release](#), issued late yesterday.

Garner and Raleigh fire departments responded that day, along with numerous units from Wake, Garner, Eastern Wake, and Cary EMS. NC USAR Task Force 8 was also deployed. The incident extended over a couple days. [We blogged about the units on scene](#), which numbered five engines, four ladders, four rescues (RFD, GFD, GEMS), five USAR units, four haz-mat units, two command posts (RFD, WCEM), air truck, fuel truck, fifteen-plus ambulances, additional paramedic units, and an EMS special ops unit. Photos were posted [by Mike](#) (below) and [by Lee](#).



Updated with incident recap info and links.

Legeros - 02/05/10 - 07:57

Does it really take injury, death, and study/investigation to tell a person not to vent a flammable gas into a confined or poorly ventilated space? Do I give the human race too much credit? Is further sampling of the "gene pool" necessary?

J.Boggs - 02/05/10 - 10:39

You're 100% right Jason – I agree!! It is amazing how we are too reactive as a society and prone to repeat our past experiences (good or bad). For comparison, here' a perspective for all: Imagine what our fire jobs would be like if we placed the effort/budget we pour on "fire operations" into "fire prevention and education." Indeed, "we" may be part of the overall "fire" problem too(?). Fascinating....

A.C. Rich - 02/05/10 - 12:11

Been saying that for a while...look at european countries that focus their effort on prevention- LOW fire deaths and loss.

J.Boggs - 02/05/10 - 16:45

This compelling article on culture change appeared in the October issue of Firehouse, http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_hb..

It's powerful stuff.

Legeros - 02/05/10 - 18:56

This quote alone could spark a week's discussion, from the above article: "What do you see when you walk around your station? Pictures of major blazes your department has battled? Pictures of your firefighters in heroic poses on handlines or sitting in rehab with soot-stained faces or, worse, pictures of your firefighters posing inside or in front of what was once someone's home, now turned nightmare? Do you display melted or blackened helmets? Melted light bulbs or other melted items taken from someone's tragedy? What is that saying about your department's value system?"

Legeros - 02/05/10 - 19:08

What is it saying? Volumes, Mike. Volumes. Not only the department's values as a whole, but many of the individuals' values as well. But then, the same thing can be said about my gig. What do we talk about or look back on doing? Intubations, chest decompressions, crics, OB deliveries, MVCs, GSWs, etc. How about the time we spent educating someone to take care of themselves, working with family members to manage some new health crisis, etc.? You ain't got to be an APP or some other 'special' medic to do it. It's just the same value system. It ain't 'fun'.

DJ - 02/05/10 - 19:20

There's obvious irony in this discussion, as my talent extends to creating fire suppression iconography. Prevention versus suppression. Such very different animals. Culture is probably only one piece. Wonder what's displayed in military barracks? Imagery of war, or messages of peace? Maybe both? Fascinating.

Legeros - 02/05/10 - 19:44

Ditto!!

A.C. Rich - 02/05/10 - 21:43

Farmers versus hunters, [http://sethgodin.typepad.com/seths_blog/..](http://sethgodin.typepad.com/seths_blog/)

Does prevention=farming and suppression=hunting?

Might be a stretch, but you probably get my point. Two different types of activities, and perhaps two entirely differently types of people who excel therein. Heck, you might drawn the comparison between line and command personnel.

It's more than culture, it's perhaps the very being?

Wonder if any cities in the United States have flip-flopped the model? With exponentially larger prevention than suppression staffs? Probably can't be done, given the economics of insurance ratings. Maybe in commercial or industrial settings it applies? Again, fascinating.

Legeros - 02/06/10 - 08:59

Interesting discussion. Quick little story: My younger sister is now in college at UNC-Asheville and they have had two arson cases (1 off and 1 on-campus) within the last few weeks. Not saying that fire/arson prevention efforts have completely failed, but why do kids think it is okay to start fires in occupied apartment complexes and endanger many lives, including my family? I don't care what the circumstances are, that is just stupid. Anyone that believes fire/arson prevention efforts are running us out of the job needs to reconsider why you got into the field in the first place. Sorry, end of my rant.

BFD1151 - 02/06/10 - 15:39

What's really interesting to me is the discussion that the explosion at the power plant in CT may have been caused by purging gas lines.

RWECC - 02/08/10 - 11:51

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Durham Promotes First Female Batallion Chief

02/05/10 36 W, 1 I - + 13 - 5

Found on FireNews, WTVD has a profile of Tamala Wilson, the first female Battalion Chief of the Durham Fire Department. [Read the story](#), or click to watch the video:



COngratulations to Chief Wilson from RFD Station #8!

A.C. Rich - 02/06/10 - 11:26

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List of EMS Units

02/06/10 66 W, 2 I - + 11 - 7

By popular demand, here's a list of the locations of [EMS units in Wake County](#). We'll call it version 1.1. And it includes the numbering scheme, and a second list of special units. Post or mail with corrections. The PDF document permanently lives at www.legeros.com/scanner. Thanks for everyone's help both getting this created, and future iterations. Click to read:

Wake County EMS System

Unit Numbering:

Unit	Agency	District (Code)	Address (Unit/Officer)
EMS 1-09	Wake County EMS	District 1 District 2 District 3	Chief 100-109 Chief 200-209 (Operations) Chief 300 (Rescue Services) MSU, MCI, MCI-20 (Medical Director staff)
EMS 40-49	Apex EMS		Chief 400-409 Unit 410 (Supervisor)
EMS 50-59	Cary EMS	District 5	Chief 500-509
EMS 60-69	Eastern Wake EMS	District 6	Chief 600-609
EMS 80-89	Garner EMS		Chief 800-809 Unit 810 (Supervisor)
EMS 120-129	Sta Forks EMS	District 4	Chief 1200-1209

Unit Locations, Sorted by Unit

Unit	Station	Station (CAD)	Address	City
Chief 100	Station 01	Downtown	311 S. McDowell St.	Raleigh
Chief 200	Station 01	Downtown	311 S. McDowell St.	Raleigh
Chief 400	Apex EMS	Apex Main	323 W. Williams St.	Apex
Chief 500	Cary EMS	Cary Main	103 Madison Ct.	Cary
Chief 600	Eastern Wake EMS 1	Wendell	402 E. Third St.	Wendell
Chief 800	Garner EMS	Garner Main	880 Vandora Springs Rd.	Garner
Chief 1200	Sta Forks EMS 1 / Sta Forks FD 3	Sta Forks Main	1411 Lynn Rd.	Raleigh
District 3	Station 03	Downtown	311 S. McDowell St.	Raleigh
District 3	Fairview FD 1	Fairview	4901 Top Ten Rd.	Apex
District 3	Station 20	Wake Forest	108 S. Poplar St.	Wake Forest

Feb. 5, 2010

Eastern Wake EMS has EMS 66 — it's a peak load truck that totally floats, and it's based out of Zebulon Main. Runs from 0900-2100.

CJS (Email) - 02/06/10 - 12:54

EMS 42 is still listed in CAD at Fairview, but is located at Cary Station 6.

4447 - 02/08/10 - 13:41

Hey Mike, is there any chance you could also post things like EMS alarm assignments, like you do with the Fire Departments and with RDU?

CJS (Email) - 02/08/10 - 18:42

Here are the alarm levels. I'll make a point to add them to the above web site as well, <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..>

Legeros - 02/08/10 - 20:08

How many of those fire-based units are stationed in the stations, versus parking or idling there?

Just curious - 02/08/10 - 20:17

I don't know if there is any plan to change the 'name' of EMS42's location in CAD, at least I have not heard of it. I really don't see a reason to, since it is only a mile down the road, and really, it is close enough. The only people that hear "EMS42, move up to Fairview Station" is the crew from EMS42, since Fairview is not a key station coverage point. And those of us who ride EMS42 know where we are supposed to go.

DJ - 02/08/10 - 20:32

DJ. I was just saying that because its not on Mike's sheet. I agree with you completely

4447 - 02/09/10 - 07:47

Hey 447, I know. I was just clarifying for some of Mike's other readers before someone asked "Why don't they change it?" or something.

DJ - 02/11/10 - 11:44

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Tomica Tokyu Crash Truck

02/06/10 93 W, 3 I - + 10 - 11

Now for some collector's minutia. Many folks have one of these toys in their collection. Made by Tomy/Tomica in 1975, it's a 1:130 scale, die-cast crash truck. Though it's tempting to think that it replicas an American Lafrance USAF O-11A apparatus (bottom photo), it really replicas a truck made by a company called Tokyu (middle photo). Perhaps the latter was based on the former? Below are a pair of photos that demonstrate the differences. The second picture was scanned from a Japanese-language fire apparatus book.





Wikipedia photo

Probably a design based upon the O-11, since it debuted in the early 50s. I actually got to drive and operate one of these in 1992. Way cool.

DJ - 02/07/10 - 09:47

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Nott Fire Equipment Information Wanted

02/06/10 131 W, 1 I - + 10 - 5

Ed Arata in Sutter Creek, CA, is seeking information about Nott fire apparatus, specifically contacts for people or organizations that may have leads on three pieces of equipment:

- Nott chemical fire extinguisher, 60 gallon, circa 1910
- Nott metal host cart
- Nott hand-drawn hook and ladder and bucket wagon.

Below is a photo of a 1927 fire engine that the town used. They mounted the Nott extinguisher on a 1920 or 1921 Dodge pick-up, and added a homemade hose reel with float cotton hose. The town still has the reel and basket, which survived in the attic at a place called Cap's Garage. Notice the nozzle stored behind the tool box on the running board, which has survived well. Any leads appreciated. [Mail me](#) and I'll pass along. Click to enlarge:



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RAPS Race, Friday, March 19, 3:00 p.m.

02/06/10 111 W, 1 I - + 8 - 13

The next [Raleigh Area Public Safety Racing League](#) (RAPS) endurance kart race is scheduled for Friday, March 19, 2010. The event begins at 3:00 p.m. with practice and team qualifying. The 90-minute endurance race begins at 6:00 p.m. RAPS races bring together members of the public safety community for fellowship in a fun setting. Start putting together that team of four drivers from your agency. And there's no limit on the number of teams from any one agency. The entry fee is \$150 per team, payable the day of the race. The location is the same as before, Rush Hour Karting in Garner, at [5335 Raynor Road](#). Varoom.



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Wake County Firefighter's Association Meeting Agenda, Tuesday, Feb. 9

02/07/10 176 W - + 14 - 9

Below is the agenda for this week's Wake County Firefighter's Association quarterly meeting and supper, held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, at Bay Leaf Station 1 at [11713 Six Forks Road](#). See you there!

February 9, 2010 - Quarterly Meeting Agenda

- Return Thanks
- Meal
- Call Meeting to Order
- Roll Call
- Attendance Award
- Financial Report.
- Minutes of Last Meeting
- Old Business
 - Conference Report
 - T- Shirts
 - Benevolent Fund
- New Business
- Agency Reports
 - Wake County Department of Fire and Emergency Management
 - Forestry Service
 - Wake Technical Community College
 - NCFFA
 - Other
- Committee Reports
 - Training
 - Web-Site
 - Scholarship
- Committee Volunteers
 - Publicity/Promotions (Conference)
 - Scholarship
 - Training
 - Other
- Door Prizes
- Guest Speakers (pending)

Door prizes?

KOM - 02/07/10 - 14:09

Yes, they're giving away doors. Metal, wood, and even a unique European model fashioned entirely from feathers.

Legeros - 02/07/10 - 14:13

KOM, We have been giving away door prizes for a year now. We have given away Fire Helmets, T-Shirts, Flashlights, Globe Socks, More T-Shirts, Glove Keepers, A Complete set of Globe turn-out gear, More T-Shirts, and various other things. Rumor control says that Tuesday night of course More T-Shirts will be given away, and the possibility of a 5.11 Jacket. Still working on that. Thoughts for this years gifts are, Boots,

Jackets, Gloves, flashlights. There has even been discussion about giving away a trip this year. We take what we can get and afford. We receive most of our "door prizes" as donations, gifts or we buy the items at a very cheap price. Thanks and be safe....Mikey thanks again hope to see you Tuesday Night

lprice - 02/07/10 - 16:25

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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Yes

No

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

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Every so often, someone asks about buying cameras. What's the best camera to buy, is the common query. Something bigger, badder, fancier, or powerful-- the asker asks-- than the point-and-shoot that they (or their wife) already has. My answer is always the same: a qualified "don't know." I have used only a couple brands of digital cameras in my day. First were Fuji FinePix, which worked well during my early digital years. Then switched to a Canon Digital Rebel XT¹. Then bought a second, so I wouldn't have to keep changing between close-up and far-away lens.

The Rebel XT is a digital SLR camera, which means single-lens reflex. Basically, when you press the shutter button, the picture is taken. Just like that, and with no shutter delay (except in lower light, or with special settings). My reason for upgrading to SLR was speed. There was too much motion on the fireground for my point-and-shoot camera to adequately capture. And as evident by the [photos thus taken](#), the results have been positive.

Have point-and-shoot cameras advance in the years, to be comparable to digital SLR cameras? Don't know. What about Nikon or other brands of digital SLR? Don't know. Lee Wilson has taken photos with Nikon digital SLR cameras for years, and the [quality of his photos](#) speak for themselves. What camera bodies does he use? He shoots with a Nikon D60, and has used both a Nikon D50 and a Nikon D70 in his past.

Will buying and using those Canon and Nikon cameras result in pictures as good as ours? Perhaps. But there's a second piece of the equipment puzzle, and that's the lens. Er, lenses, plural. Better camera bodies call for better lenses. Yours Truly upgraded from his "kit" lens-- the one that came with the camera package-- to a higher-quality one, from the Canon "L" series. The results were better pictures, notably richer colors and "faster" photography. Meaning, light travelled through them faster than the older lenses, which helped improve low-light and night photos. (Talk about a nutshell of a explanation there!)

So, you buy the same camera and the same lenses, and then you start taking great pictures, right? Maybe. Depends on your experience both (a.) using cameras and (b.) taking pictures. I personally, and even impersonally, have far more experiencing taking pictures than using cameras. Only in the last decade or so, have I started paying attention to the settings and capabilities of the cameras that I've used. And learning is still happening. Every incident that I attend is a chance to practice, refine, and practice again.

What advice can I give, for those with new digital SLR cameras? Here's what I have done, and have learned to do. Shoot in Program Shift (P) mode, which negates both auto-flash and auto-ISO. Then, start setting the ISO yourself, and popping the flash yourself. Save your pictures in RAW, instead of JPEG. Use the post-processing software included with your camera to "process" your pictures. It's like developing your own film. Digital developing.

Take pictures often. Have camera, will travel. Take lots of pictures when taking pictures. For people pictures, five to one or ten to one is a good ratio. Snap, snap, snap, snap. Just like that. Particularly if they're candid shots. People have annoying habits of blinking, moving their mouths, and doing other interesting things with their faces that don't look entirely appealing in still photos.

For flash photos, buy an external flash, and then learn how to "bounce." That's turning and swivling the flash head, so it faces a wall or a ceiling, and then "bounces" the light back on the subject. Less direct, less harsh. Also, when possible, shoot in sunlight. Overcast days are great for even lighting, but the colors won't nearly as nice as when sunlit.

Finally, share the photos. Let others see them, and react to them. Let yourself become aware that others will be seeing your photos, which can result in a nice feedback loop. It's like performance. When you realize that you're on stage-- or going to be on stage-- you take your work a little more seriously. And that's about it, I guess, for quick tips and an answer to the original question.

Finally, here are a couple articles for further reading. There are many, many more. Google is your friend.

- [Nine Digital Camera Settings for Every Photographer to Discover](#)
- [Short Course in Using Your Digital Camera](#)

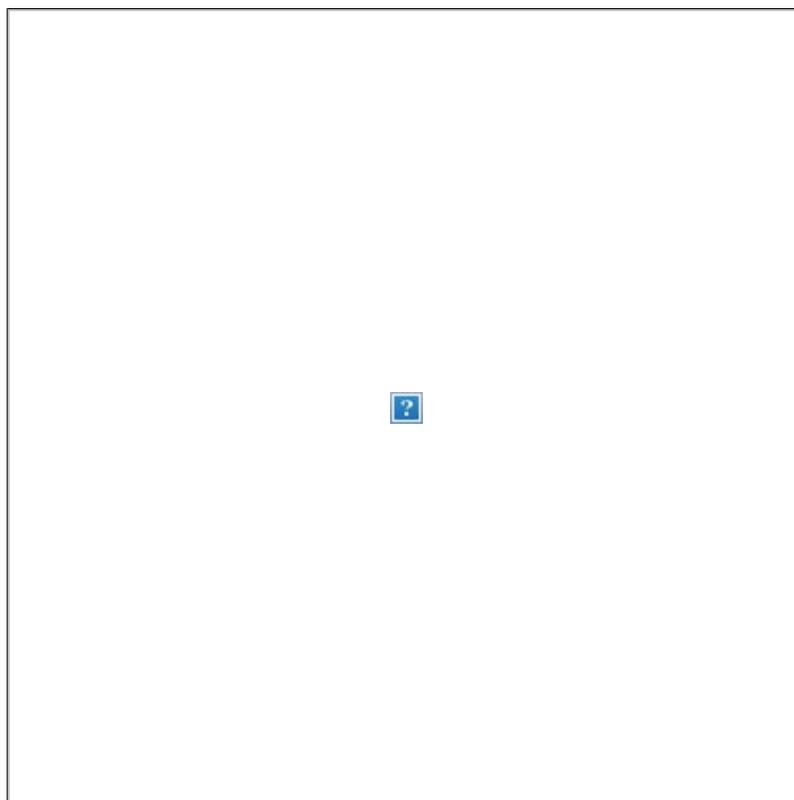
Signed, a guy who takes a lot of pictures, and still learning how to take them.

¹ The Rebel XT has been superceded by subsequent models, such as the XTi and Xsi. Good site for camera information is [Digital Photography Review](#).

Durham's New Mobile Support Unit

02/08/10 77 W, 1 I - + 12 - 7

The Durham Fire Department took delivery of a new mobile support unit in late December. The 2009 International/EVI is a 22-foot rescue unit equipped with storage for air bottles and a cascade system, a light tower and 40KW generator, numerous equipment trays, and other features. View more photos, specs, and drawings at the [manufacturer's web site](#). The truck replaces a 1998 E-One apparatus that's slightly shorter in size. It's housed at Station 1.



Nice looking rig, but how long do they really think an EVI will survive in Durham? Maybe 5 years tops. You get what you pay for.

Old School - 02/09/10 - 01:31

I don't know about your experiences with EVI, but I've driven one for over 10 years and body wise, it's a solid truck, and well built.

CFP 7021 - 02/09/10 - 12:25

Nice ride, I'd like to see RFD switch to something like this when Air-1 comes up for replacement. The current Air-1 is dangerously top heavy. While I'm sure this rig has its weight to it, it doesn't look too bad. What does a price tag run on a special piece like this?

Silver - 02/09/10 - 14:30

I wish we had an air truck.

Our two rescue companies provide air at incidents. My only issue with that is our rescue's feel they are so special, as soon as the fire is knocked down, they're gone. That means no SCBA during overhaul and mop up since the rescue won't be there to refill your bottle.

It is also a bit of a hassle to get bottles filled if you have a car fire, or other incident where SCBA would be needed that the rescue doesnt respond on. You must go to our logistics department or to the rescue station, as we don't have spare bottles in the station. The air unit could respond to incidents needing SCBA (working fires/hazmats) and go around to stations to refill/replace used air botles as needed.

Rides An Engine - 02/09/10 - 15:06

The Rescue just releases themselves after a fire? You'd think the I.C. would tell them to hold up. I'm glad we have an air unit, and would love to see us work an agreement with the Bayleaf FD (northside combo department which has an air unit) to help cover the city on the northside. Some areas here, our air unit has a 25-30 minute ride since we're so spread out. I realize there isn't an extreme rush to get the air unit there, but, 30 minutes is pretty long.

Silver - 02/09/10 - 15:44

Silver,

It's pretty much once there is a control time, you've got about 10 minutes or so to get your SCBA filled before they leave. Command will announce this over the radio. It's a mentality of the rescue companies, and so many of our Batt. Chiefs and command staff came from the rescues, it trickles down, and happens at most every fire, even if the fire is in that rescue's 1st due are.

Rides An Engine - 02/09/10 - 15:54

Gotcha....

Silver - 02/09/10 - 16:18

What other equipment does Durham carry on the mobile air truck besides spare bottles and cascade?

Rides An Engine - 02/12/10 - 16:39

I know they used to carry several coolers and snacks. I can remember the guy on my shift would hustle...had a cooler with soda, water and gatorade I believe, along with some peanut butter crackers.

Silver - 02/12/10 - 17:52

spare rescue related tools. extra foam for hasmat team. functions as a rehab truck. carries spare air bottles. carries ems supplies as well.

crs - 02/13/10 - 17:02

Name: (real name preferred)
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Yes

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Comment:

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Wake County Fire Academy Accepting Applications

02/08/10 85 W, 2 I - + 9 - 6

[Wake County Fire/Rescue](#) is now accepting applications for its third county-wide fire academy, which begins July 1, 2010 and graduates in December 2010. Applications must be received no later than May 21, 2010. Successful candidates get certified as Firefighter II, Haz-Mat 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 3
 Wake County Fire/Rescue is now accepting applications for Recruit Class 3

Class 3 begins July 1, 2010 and graduates December 2010
 Applications must be received no later than May 21, 2010

Requirements

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 HS 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 Operations Plus
- EMT Basic
- ICS
- Firefighter Rescue
- Firefighter Survival
- Technical Rescuer
- Fit Testing

For applications or information about this program contact: Joseph Kozowski at 919/387-4338 or Ricky L. Dorsey at 919/856-6345 or email: rdorsey@co.wake.nc.us

Is this 0800-1700 monday – friday.. Do you get payed

Tyler Smith - 02/09/10 - 10:59

yes it's just like a normal municipal fire academy, and you get paid if your department is paying for you to go, otherwise you're on your own dime.

CFP 7021 - 02/09/10 - 12:26

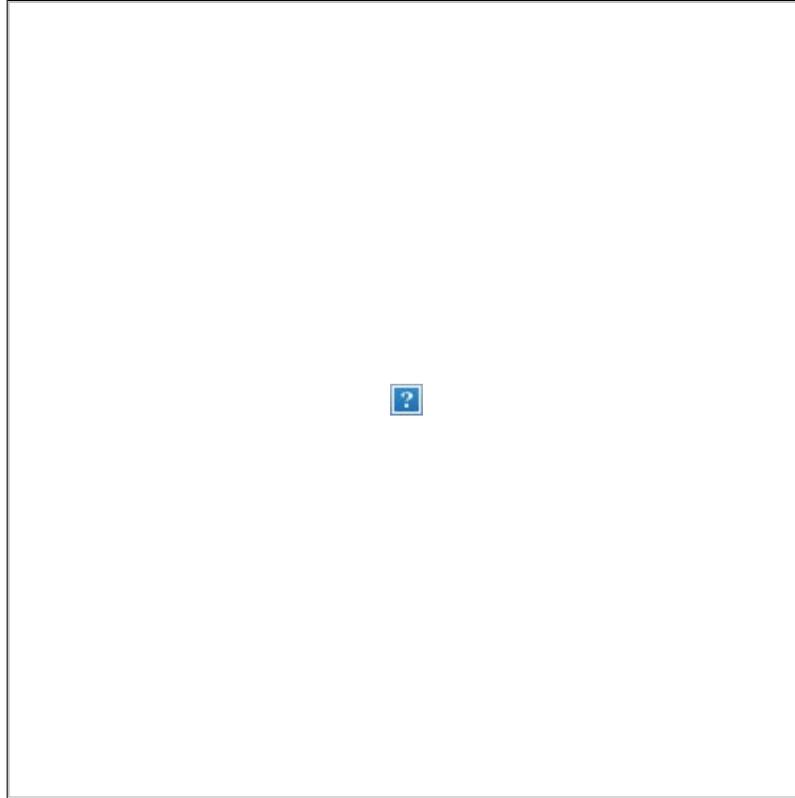
The Academy runs 0800 – 1700 daily and could be longer if the objectives for the day are not covered. The pay part, CFP 7021 is correct if you are not being sent by a paid department you are doing it for free. You also have to pay for the materials needed in the academy. Things like uniforms, Essential book, EMT books, and any other material the instructor wants you to have.

Joe ([Email](#)) - 02/10/10 - 11:24

Retired Asheville Engineer Wins Powerball

02/08/10 119 W, 2 I - + 13 - 10

As assorted news agencies are reporting, retired Asheville Fire Department Engineer Frank Griffin has claimed Saturday's \$141 million [Powerball jackpot](#). He's taking his winnings in one, big, fat, honkin', lump sum, which totals about \$47 million after Uncle Sam gets his due. He purchase five tickets last week while buying gas. What will the 66-year-old Griffin do with the dough? He wants to take care of the kids-- three children, three grandchildren-- and take Mrs. Griffin to Hawaii. We wish him safe travels, and encourage the purchase of many Hawaiian shirts. He also wants to play more golf. Griffin also owns a janitorial services company. [Read the press release](#) .



Scott Sharpe/News & Observer photo

Oh, and the odds of his winning same? Merely 1 in 195,249,054.00

Legeros - 02/08/10 - 20:31

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

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Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Bryan Building, 1993

02/08/10 227 W, 1 I - + 10 - 5

Two major fires have beset Cameron Village. Both have involved the Bryan Building. December 2, 1964. Reported at 5:25 a.m. as a verbal alarm, presumably to nearby Station 5. Fire damaged a third of the block-long, two-story building on the west side of Daniels Street. Started in the kitchen of Hofbrau Restaurant. Extinguished with the assistance of a foam generator trailer, towed by a salesman passing through Raleigh. Cameron Village owner Willie York was so impressed, he bought one for the city. Foam 5 was housed at Station 5. One year later, the city added a second foam truck, stored at Station 1.

May 24, 1993. Summer not winter, but about the same time. Dispatched 5:46 a.m. Engine 5, Engine 6, Truck 1, Rescue 6, and Car 52 on the first alarm. Fire started in a doctor's office, and destroyed or damaged 25 businesses and offices. Crews battled the blaze for two and a half hours, before bring the fire under control. Three alarms were struck, and a rookie class also attended. Fire walls prevented the flames from spreading the entire length of the structure. Police closed the surrounding streets, and kept onlookers far away. The doctor whose office burned also suffered a fire at his home, which was reported 90 minutes into the Cameron Village incident. The blaze was believed intentional. Raleigh Fire Department photo unit member Jeff Harkey took this pic. Click to enlarge:

*Jeff Harkey photo*

I think I would consider pulling a 2.5in line if I rolled up on this fire though I wasn't there and don't mean to play Monday morning quarterback since there are too many unknowns out of the picture. I have just tried to get myself out of the "habit" or routine of getting off the truck and pulling a 1.5in line. Big fire needs big water...(if available) right?

rookie - 02/09/10 - 07:29

P.S. I just have to ask...was there any connection between the fire at the doctors office and the doctor's house? I see that it says it was believed intentional but does that apply to both? Any charges ever filed? Alright...enough questions.

rookie - 02/09/10 - 07:31

The photo is perhaps an excellent Rorschach test for quarterbacks. There's practically zero context provided, beyond the time stamp. (That's 90 minutes into the incident.) One firefighter. One line. Lots of fire. Talk about infinite inferences!

Legeros - 02/09/10 - 07:32

History – by 1993, Raleigh had converted over to 2" hose and did not use 2.5" hose anymore. Well, there may have been a few companies that

still had it, but I know E-20 (1982 Mack) had converted to 2" by then and the hose bed was raised to accommodate the additional hose. I'm sure all of the "downtown" units had made the conversion by this time. This may be 2" line in the photo (hard to tell...) Anyway...

A.C. Rich - 02/09/10 - 22:35

anybody remember what shift that was on.

gen3fire - 02/10/10 - 08:33

More information. The fire was a "C" shift fire.

First alarm: E5, E6, T1, R6, C52

Second alarm: E13, E1, E8, R7, C53

Third alarm: E4, E12, T15

Other units: C1, C2, C3, C5, C10, C12, C70, C71, SR5 (air truck), C42, C72, C73

Car 5 was incident commander.

Legeros - 02/11/10 - 07:21

Name: (real name
preferred)

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Very Old Photo

02/09/10 102 W, 1 I - + 10 - 5

[Found on eBay](#), here's a [tintype](#) photo of a Civil War-era firefighter. This is about as rare as you get! Says the seller, the print was purchased in Charlotte, and the helmet reads CFD. Perhaps a Charlotte firefighter? Or is that a uniform from a fire department in New York? The seller has also been told that. The image is reversed, and his helmet, belt buckle, and shirt/vest all have the number "2". [See the auction listing](#) for more photos. Below is a copy after some PhotoShop improvements. Click to slightly enlarge. Starting price only \$99.99!



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Japanese Erasers

02/10/10 64 W, 1 I - + 10 - 3

Everyone's seen little fire engine erasers, designed for school kids but also easily appropriated for adult events, such as decorating retirement cakes. Here's their equivalent in Japan, found on eBay. Why the motorcycle? They're used there, too. Earthquake reponse, we've been told. They can get around rubble quickly. Probably also used for special events. Here are a [couple pics from Toyko](#).



JAPANESE ERASER ONLINE MUSEUM, US location.

<http://www.iwakousa.com/id69.html>

Zredline - 02/10/10 - 09:02

mushi mushi

Mr. Lee - 02/12/10 - 10:35

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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Mattydale Lay

02/10/10 216 W, 2 I - + 6 - 9

Let's talk about hose. The first leather (fire) hose appeared in Holland in 1672 or 1673. The first metal-riveted (leather?) fire hose appeared in Philadelphia in 1807, and the first rubber fire hose was developed around 1839. Then cotton-covered rubber hose appeared in 1870. Two- and four-wheel reels carried this hose, which couldn't be carried in any other effective fashion.

About 1878, seamless cotton hose was developed. This was capable of being packed flat, and hose wagons were developed as alternatives to reels. Then motorized hose wagons supplanted horse and hand wagons, and which led to pumping engines. As different sizes of hose were utilized on the same apparatus, rear hose beds were partitioned accordingly.

In 1947, Fire Chief Burton L. Eno of the Mattydale Fire Department in New York designed a new method of packing hose. Instead of parallel placement in the rear of the truck, he devised a platform above the pump for perpendicular storage. This was designed for rapid deployment of attack lines, and was first installed on the department's 1939 Buffalo engine. The [Mattydale lay](#), as it was known in the north, was the original cross lay / speed lay / transverse lay.

Reader Barry Furey shares a couple pictures of the original engine, currently on display at the [New York State Firemen's Home](#) in Hudson. Click to enlarge:



When were cross lays added to Raleigh apparatus? Was it really as late as 1989, with the first Pierce pumpers? Looking at pics of the prior 1986 EEI and 1985 Pirsch, they all appear to originally be without. And all the Macks were cross lay-less, no? Retrofitted later, right?

<http://legeros.com/ralwake/raleigh/appar..>

Legeros - 02/10/10 - 08:29

Nice history lesson....

Silver - 02/10/10 - 22:04

You're right Mike. The first three Pierce Arrow pumpers were the first engines with "factory" speed-lays. The other engines were slowly retrofitted after these apparatus were placed into service.

A.C. Rich - 02/11/10 - 01:20

Name: (real name preferred)

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Mystery Chevrons

02/10/10 31 W, 1 I - + 13 - 5

Who drives these stripes? The vehicle is registered in North Carolina, and was recently photographed out of doors. How's that for clues?



That would be NH C1!!!!

NH300C - 02/10/10 - 21:13

western wake c 190

steven - 02/11/10 - 22:34

nope, no lights on the back like that on WWC190, and there's lettering on the rear window.

CFP 7021 - 02/11/10 - 23:01

that would definitely be NH Car 1!

AB - 02/12/10 - 19:20

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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The Big Blow

02/10/10 137 W, 1 I - + 10 - 9

How's that for a salaciously titled posting? Winds were high and temps were low on this otherwise briskly appealing Wednesday. (With gloves and a good coat it was entirely nice outside!) The big breezes should be dying down, though a high wind warning remains in effect until 9 p.m. The mercury is still slightly above freezing, though drops to 26 tonight. Watch for ice, especially if you end up flowing water. See your favorite news station for coverage of the day's tree topplings and power outages. Below is eastbound Interstate 40, which had a lane blocked by a downed tree around done. Morrisville was on scene with an engine and a chainsaw, though they'd just cleared at the time of this photo. Mr. Blogger did a little wandering at lunch.



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Remember personal info?

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Comment:

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Central Fire Station, 1990

02/10/10 87 W, 1 I - + 12 - 12

Here's a 20 year-old picture of Raleigh's Big House, from a 35mm color slide, from a set of station and apparatus photos recently found in fire department storage. Watch for the full set soon. Parked on the apron are three of the city's first four Pierce fire engines, two of three 1989 Pierce Arrow pumpers, and a 1988 Pierce Arrow 85-foot articulating platform. Back when they called them Trucks. The third engine was located at Station 9. The slide is dated October 1990. Photographer unknown. Click to enlarge:



E-mail came out to us today, announcing placement of the two new rigs when they arrive. Engine 13 will get one, and their existing engine will be re-assigned to Engine 28. Engine 11 will get the other, with their engine going to Engine 4. I guess we're up to twenty-something Pierces now.

Silver - 02/10/10 - 22:51

This pic brings back a lot of fond memories! I was a new boy there when the first Arrows arrived in late 1989 (E-1, E-13). Man, those trucks were the envy of the department back then. Outside of the two EEI's and the Pirsch, everything else was still Mack CF's and a two ALF 900's.

A.C. Rich - 02/11/10 - 01:15

They had that nice, deep sound too when accelerating...

Silver - 02/11/10 - 04:16

I know we are talking about RFD....but who was the first county department to get a Pierce? Who was it and when was it?

Buckwheat - 02/11/10 - 12:31

That's a great question Buck, I'm going to guess and see if I'm right. Was it Swift Creek, Mike???????

Silver - 02/11/10 - 12:35

I think that Garner and Bay Leaf both had Pierce's that were from around 84 or so.

Mike - 02/11/10 - 13:24

Swift Creek, Garner, and Bayleaf had early Pierces. Maybe they will chime-in with some details. Now, y'all be specific... there were several "Pierce" conventional cabs trucks around in the late 70's-early 80's. I guess we are speaking of Pierce customs(?). If my service testing memory serves me right, Bayleaf's first customs were 1985 models. They can confirm. Really good and TOUGH trucks!!

A.C. Rich - 02/11/10 - 15:38

Good point A.C., because I think Swift Creek Engine 5 (?) in the 1994/95 time frame was a "Pierce" but had a Chevy or Ford cab (can't remember). I do remember the sluggish gas, manual engine and the flames that would shoot out of the exhaust pipe when it would backfire.

Silver - 02/11/10 - 16:23

Cary had 2 1987 Pierce custom engines and a 1988 Pierce custom Ladder and an earlier Ford/Pierce (maybe 1982ish).

CFP 7021 - 02/11/10 - 16:31

If memory serves me right both Bay Leaf 252 and 256 (at the time) were 1985 Pierce Dash Custom Pumpers. (and yes AC, they were SOLID trucks)

Mike H. - 02/11/10 - 17:13

Say my records...

Swift Creek had a 1976 Ford/Pierce pumper, and a 1977 ____/Pierce pumper/tanker.

Cary had a 1982 Ford/Pierce pumper.

Bay Leaf had a 1985 Pierce Dash pumper, and a 1985 Pierce Dash pumper/tanker.

Garner had a 1986 Ford/Pierce tanker, and a 1987 Pierce Dash pumper/tanker.

Swift Creek had a 1987 Pierce pumper.

Cary had two 1987 Pierce Arrow pumpers.

And so on.

Legeros - 02/11/10 - 17:29

Garner had a 1984 Pierce Dash Pumper that was Engine 10 when my volunteer department bought it in 2006, it is still in very good shape and is one pumping truck.

car3550 - 02/11/10 - 18:07

Not trying to start anything and merely asking this question for my own clarification but I was under the impression with the new apparatus numbering system that went into effect all apparatus, engines included, would stay that number. I remember the email stating that this would eliminate having to renumber the hose, equipment, truck, etc. Is this not going to be the case for the new engines? Maybe I'm not understanding this correctly but wouldn't the Wake X-roads house now house E13 and the Sawmill house now house E11/L1? Downtown house would become E1/E29/L4? Brentwood house E30/L2?

PeeWee - 02/12/10 - 23:22

No, you were a little mistaken. The new numbering system works like this; currently we (Ladder 1) are at the Northway Ct. Firehouse with Engine 4 (Sawmill Station, Station 4 or whatever you want to call it). If they were to take Ladder 1, and relocate the company to Engine 15's quarters, we'd still be Ladder 1. Same goes for the rescue companies.

You have to think of it as it pertains to the "company", not the physical apparatus itself. If they were to give us a "new" ride at Ladder Company 1, let's just say Ladder Company 2 gets a new rig and we get their hand me down, we'd still be Ladder Company 1 no matter what truck we were riding.

As far as numbering hose goes, it's just an inventory number. Let's say your last number on your 5" was 100, you'd just start with 101 on your new rig. When it comes to tools, I think you'll see companies keeping their tools and transferring them to the new rig, no need for renumbering there either.

Wake Crossroads is Engine 28, and will always be regardless of how many new rigs they get. Same with E11/L2. They'll always be those companies, in that house, regardless of the apparatus. Unless of course, L2 gets relocated someplace, but they'll still be Ladder Company 2.

You aren't the first person that had this interpretation, so I know you aren't being a trouble maker!!

Stay safe...

Silver - 02/13/10 - 02:35

I have always heard that Swift Creek's 1976 Ford/Pierce pumper was the first Pierce fire apparatus in Wake Co.

Griggs ([Email](#)) - 02/13/10 - 11:56

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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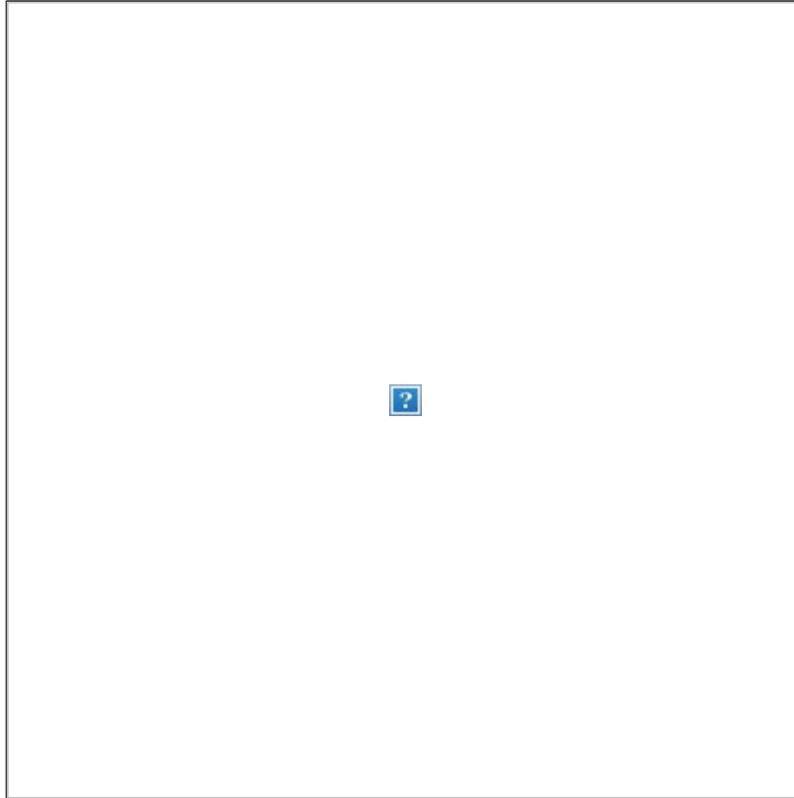
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

Snowy Bottom at Foggy Bottom / DCFD

02/11/10 51 W, 1 I - + 9 - 5

Random blizzard image found by the [Fire Critic](#) and posted on [DCFD.com](#). That site's the unofficial department site, and there are many more snow and snowy incident photos. Elliot J. Goodman took the below picture. Good shot!



Elliot J. Goodman / DCFD.com photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

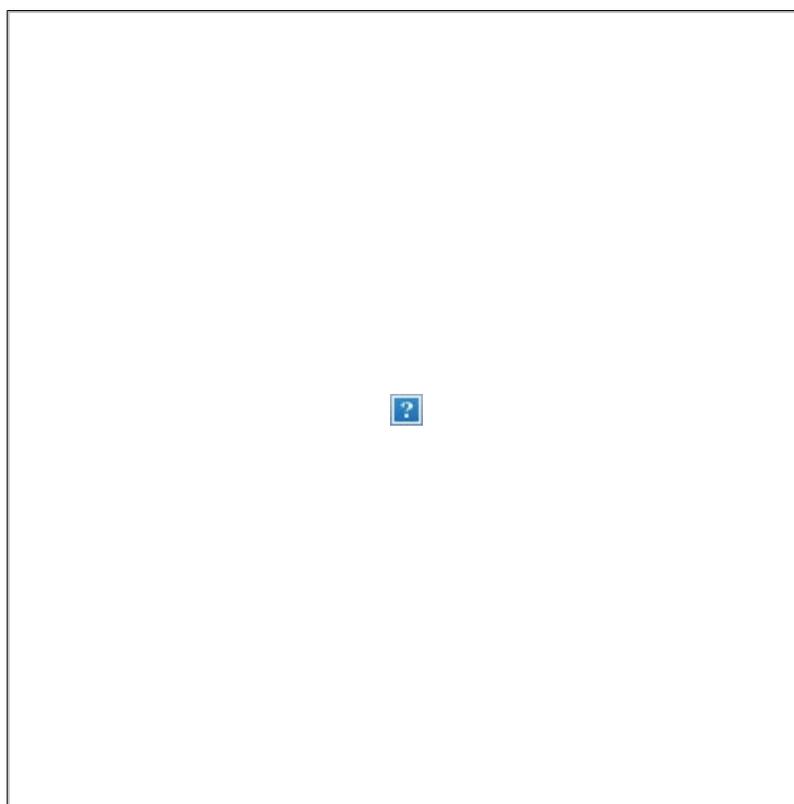
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Heavy Duty Hose Wagon / Statter911

02/11/10 161 W, 1 I - + 12 - 4

Second blizzard photo posted by [Statter911](#) of a Maryland National Guard five-ton truck being utilized as a hose wagon. It's equipped with 1000-feet of three-inch hose, a gated wye, and a 24-foot ladder. They're on scene at a two-alarm fire. Reports blogger and WUSA9 journalist Dave Statter, the Guard has been deployed at many mid-Atlantic region fire stations to help firefighters respond to calls. This photo was provided by the 1229th Transportation Company of the Maryland National Guard.

[Dave Statter](#) has been providing exceptionally good coverage of the impact of the snow on fire departments, including a number of fire station roof collapses. This morning, he found footage of a [Delaware firehouse collapse](#), shot inside the station and after the apparatus were moved. There was also a [destructive fire at Baltimore County Station 6](#), reported yesterday. We read the site daily, and it's a model of good reporting and good blogging.



Maryland National Guard / Statter911 photo

Video from the above fire, also surfaced by Statter 911. Holy cow, that's a lot of snow!

<http://statter911.com/2010/02/14/is-it-f..>

Legeros - 02/14/10 - 11:07

Fire Station 9, 1990

02/11/10 101 W, 1 I - + 8 - 6

Here's the third of the city's 1989 Pierce Arrow engines, the first pumpers from Pierce placed in service in Raleigh. Engine 1, Engine 13, and Engine 9 as shown below, again from slides from October 1990. Mr. Blogger fought his first fire on this truck, while detailed to the North Hills station for a couple cycles. Cough, cough, dust in those memories! Back then, the station housed an engine and District Chief. Today, they're an engine company along with the arson investigation unit. And remember to take them treats on Valentine's Day, as that's their birthday.

[Station 9 was placed in service](#) on February 14, 1963.



If I may, what made you decide to get off the truck Mr. Blogger?

rookie - 02/11/10 - 11:11

Thanks for your question, Rookie. I worked for Raleigh for a couple years. Stations 19, 15, 5, 16. "B" shift, then "A" shift. Pulled a little hose in my day. Firefighting wasn't the right career for me, alas. Miss it? Maybe. Regrets? None. My civilian roles (historian, photographer, blogger, buff, etc.) provide a privileged opportunity to channel my interest, and serve those who serve. I couldn't be happier. And RFD remains a great family to be part of.

Legeros - 02/11/10 - 20:28

Thanks for your reply...I think you do a great job!

rookie - 02/12/10 - 05:34

Those were really sharp looking Engines back when they were new. It would be nice to see one of them restored like they did one of the later Mack models. I wonder what qualifies an apparatus for entrance into the antique fleet?

GH - 02/12/10 - 07:33

That would be cool GH. Heck, I say do one here and there to show an apparatus time-line of sorts...

Silver - 02/12/10 - 17:55

Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

More Firsts?

02/12/10 136 W - + 9 - 6

For our Friday enjoyment, and continue our discussion of "first" apparatus in Raleigh and Wake County, what other milestones might we cite?

- First American LaFrance
 - 1912 American LaFrance Type 5 combination chemical and hose truck (2), Raleigh
 - 1914 American LaFrance Type 12 triple combination
 - etc.
- First American LaFrance (in county)
 - 1923? Ford Model T/American LaFrance chemical car, Cary
 - 1927? American LaFrance Type 10 combination, Apex
- First Mack
 - 1945 Mack Type 45, Fuquay-Varina
 - 1945 Mack Type 4, Zebulon
 - 1950 Mack Model B, Raleigh
- First Seagrave
 - 1930s Seagrave pumper, ex-Virginia Beach, purchased 1941, Wendell
 - 1953 Seagrave pumper, Cary
- First aerial ladders (in county)
 - 1987 Grumman AerialCat platform, Zebulon
 - 1988 Pierce Arrow platform, Cary
- First service ladder (modern)
 - 1957 Chevrolet, Cary
 - 1963 Ford, Raleigh
 - 1964 GMC, Raleigh
- First brush truck
 - ?
- First tanker
 - ?
- First crash trucks (at airport)
 - 1946 International/Bean, ex-military
 - 1952 Chevy pick-up with dry chemical equipment, ex-military

And what others would readers add? Use these as references:

Wake County apparatus list – <http://legeros.com/ralwake/wake/wake-app..>

Raleigh apparatus register – <http://legeros.com/ralwake/raleigh/appar..>

Legeros - 02/12/10 - 08:45

First American/Barton

1947, Wake Forest – 1947 Chevy pumper

1951, Wake Forest – 1951 Chevy pumper

1956, Six Forks – 1956 Ford pumper

1958, Rolesville – 1958 Ford? pumper

First Bean

1946, RDU – 1946 International crash truck, ex-military

1968, Fuquay-Varina – 1968 Ford pumper

1970, Fuquay-Varina – 1970 Chevy tanker

Plus numerous after 1970

First Howe

1954, Fuquay-Varina – 1954 Ford pumper

1961, Swift Creek – 1961 Chevy pumper

1968, Apex – 1968 Chevy pumper

Plus numerous in 1970s

First tanker

1952, Garner – 1948 Chevrolet, 1000 gallons, built by firefighters

1954, Apex – Tractor-drawn, military tractor and gasoline tanker trailer, 4500 gallons

1954, Fuquay-Varina – Tanker, built on military chassis

1955, Apex – Tanker built on military chassis

1956, Cary – Tanker built on military chassis, 2500 gallons.

1956, Six Forks – Tanker built on military chassis, 1500 gallons.

First rescue squad

1953, Raleigh – 1954 GMC panel van, 1954 Reo Civil Defense heavy rescue

1955, Cary – Built on military chassis

Legeros - 02/12/10 - 19:37

I think Wendell's Howe was older than F-V's.

DJ - 02/12/10 - 22:23

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Snow Tractor

02/13/10 27 W, 1 I - + 9 - 12

Morning in Cary. Behind Fire Station 4. Technical rescue truck, to replace the trailers that carry confined space equipment.



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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Upcoming History Talks

02/14/10 83 W, 1 I - + 11 - 6

Short and long versions of a history talk are coming to a venue near you. Dates and times are below. See [last year's presentation slides](#)  for a preview. Or read more about [North Carolina fire history](#).

- ~~May 11, 2010~~ Moved to November
- 6:30 p.m.
- ~~Zebulon Fire Station~~-TBD
- [Wake County Firefighter's Association](#) Quarterly Supper/Meeting
- Highlights of North Carolina firefighting history, 30 minutes or abouts.
- August 13, 2010
- Time TBD
- Raleigh Convention Center
- [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#)
- Workshop on North Carolina firefighting history, 90 minutes.

The May 11 presentation has been canceled due to a scheduling conflict that's entirely my fault. It's been moved to the November dinner, date and location forthcoming.

Legeros - 04/07/10 - 20:40

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Yes
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Dramatic Photo

02/16/10 66 W, 1 I - + 10 - 12

Found on [Statter911](#), published by the [New York Daily News](#), and taken by Maya Tucker, the neighbor of a Bronx apartment that burned Monday. Firefighters rescued the infant, along with the child's cousin-- who dangled her out of the fifth-floor, barred window, so she could breathe-- and eight other relatives in the apartment. Dave Statter also has [fireground audio](#) to accompany the photo.



Name: (real name preferred)
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 Yes No

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Capital Hose House

02/16/10 170 W, 1 I - + 10 - 3

As referenced in recent comments, Raleigh's Capital Hose House is the oldest fire department structure still standing. It's also the only one from Raleigh's vullie days. The building at 117 W. Morgan Street was built in 1887. That's when the city's water system was completed. The Capital Hose Company ran a hand reel out of the building. There was a single bay on the right side, as facing the structure. Upstairs was a fireman's hall. The first floor also housed the office of the water company.

The hose company moved across the street to 112 W. Morgan Street in 1890. That station was razed in 1896, when the Headquarters Fire Station was completed on the site. By that time, the Capital Hose Company was horse-drawn. They operated until the creation of the paid department in 1912. The historic building is presently an office. The adjoining water tower is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This photograph was taken a few years ago. Read more about [Raleigh's historic fire department buildings](#).



And here's a quick chart that explains the city's volunteer history: <http://legeros.com/ralwake/raleigh/histo..>

Legeros - 02/16/10 - 22:07

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

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Discussing the Public Safety Center

02/16/10 77 W - + 8 - 12

While we digest today's reports of the latest city council discussions on Raleigh's proposed public safety center, some supplementary reading is presented below. These are [City Council meeting minutes](#), as posted on the city's web site. The first heated discussions about the project started in December. Page numbers are indicated, to help with finding.

- December 1, 2009 - [Page 32](#)
- January 5, 2010 - [Pages 23-30](#)
- January 19, 2010 - [Pages 16-18](#)
- February 2, 2010 - [Pages 20-24](#)

So, from the PD side, anyone who works in the current building will tell you it is painful (almost) to work there. All the power outlets are in the form of "tombstones" sticking up out of the middle of the floor. The elevators break and get stuck on a regular basis. You can be extremely cold on one floor, and extremely hot on another. Twelve people are working out of an office made for two people. Some people are working out of closets. There is no hot water in the building. (Correct... THERE IS NO HOT WATER.) If the new building is never built, at least our people have been moved out to other locations.

All the news articles talk about the "17-story building for cops". They rarely mention the fire or ECC side of it. How will my fire and 911 counterparts (you guys) be affected if this building never comes to be? Are you fine with staying in your current facilities?

[rfburns] - 02/16/10 - 21:43

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Apex Offers Rewards For Tips On House Fires

02/16/10 102 W - + 10 - 5

As this [WRAL story reports](#), the Apex Police Department today offered a \$10,000 reward for information that helps nab those who have torched homes in the Olive Chapel Road area. Early Saturday morning, a home in the former L'Hermitage at Beaver Creek subdivision was set ablaze. Another home there was destroyed on September 9. (See [my photos of that subdivision](#), which was abandoned by its original builders.) That community is now called Olive Chapel Park. On October 18, a home in the Chapel Ridge subdivision was also destroyed. All three homes were unoccupied, and thus believed suspicious.

Name: (real name preferred)
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Yes
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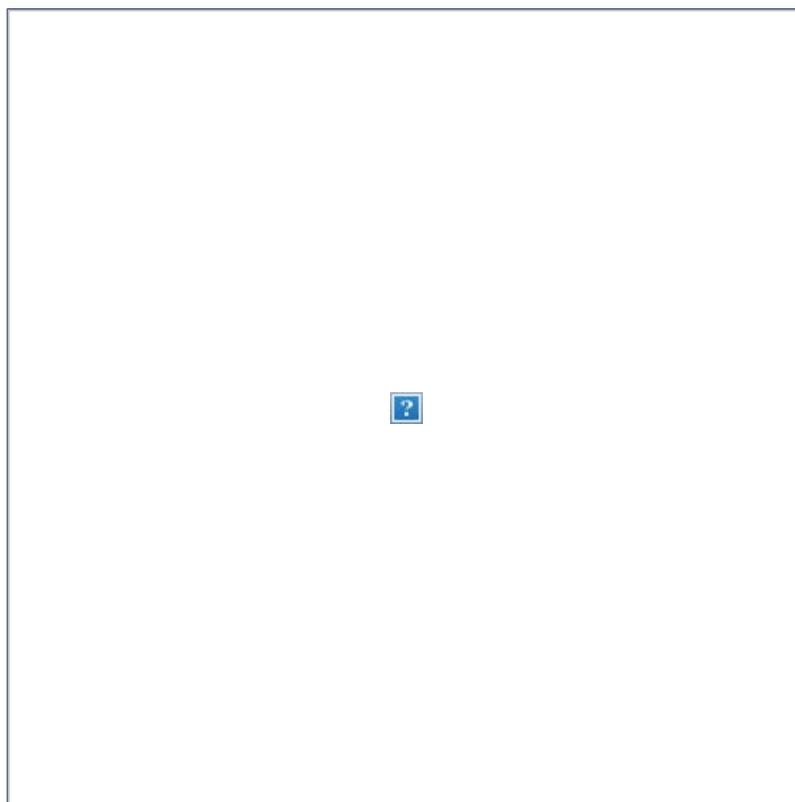
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Building Around Old Stations

02/18/10 70 W, 1 I - + 14 - 8

The story of [Dilworth fire station dilemma](#) in Charlotte makes me think of Engine 6 in Washington D.C. Their old station, which operated from 1855 to 1974, has survived by being "built around." The historic structure is located on 438 Massachusetts Avenue NW. [Learn more about historic DCFD houses](#), which was Mike's project last summer, while passing through on his way to Baltimore. Click to enlarge:



Now, could this work in Charlotte, for Old Station 2? From the reader comments on the original story, it sounds like the lot is too small to building anything grand. Maybe if there were multiple lots involved or available?

Legeros - 02/18/10 - 07:31

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Historic Landmarks Commission to Fire Station Owner: Name Your Price, Dude

02/18/10 242 W - + 4 - 11

The power of the press. The owner of Charlotte's Dilworth fire station has extended his deadline for the Historic Landmarks Commission to reach a solution, and keep the beloved building from becoming a pile of bricks, reports [this morning's Charlotte Observer](#). He's citing public interest. No duh, given the likely outcry that accompanied [Monday's article](#)¹. Not mention that FireNews cascaded the story statewide. Wonder how many calls or e-mails both sides received?

There were many pages of comments on the story's web site on Monday, though none are present this morning. Wonder what that's about?² As this morning's story reports, the owner told the *Observer* that he feels he's being unfairly portrayed. "I did the right thing. I could have just torn it down if I wanted to," he said. "I don't want this torn down." Fair enough. Today's story also adds more history about the financing of the property. It will be interesting to see what happens next. Crossing our fingers for preservation. [Read the latest](#).

¹Observe that Mr. Blogger has abandoned his dryer style of reporting for more colorful prose for these stories. Let's hope he's also being accurate.

²Maybe comments only appear during business hours, when they can be moderated? Maybe readers were a little, um, too passionate, and the whole thread was removed? They certainly represented a range of perspectives and opinions!

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E-mail: (optional)
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Sales Tax Suggested to Improve Emergency Services in Cumberland County

02/18/10 179 W, 2 I - + 10 - 13

From a reader, yesterday's *Fayetteville Observer* [published this article](#) about a proposed sales tax in Cumberland County, to fund a five-year upgrade plan for ambulance service, fire protection, and emergency communications. The plan is part of a report that's been a year in the making. Public safety officials say that, if the sales tax were approved, elected officials should then reduce property taxes. Thus, getting consumers to pay more, and property owners to pay less. They estimate the switch would save business owners and homeowners nearly \$30 million a year.

However, approving a sales tax would probably require approval of both state legislators and county voters, says the County Manager. And distribution of the new funds should be approved by a public safety commission, they suggest. The story also reports some of the challenges faced by responders in Cumberland County, including multiple communications centers, and long response times for ambulances.

[Read the Fayetteville Observer story.](#)

View the Public Safety Task Force [report](#)  and [presentation](#) , downloaded from the [county web site](#).

This is a report worth reading and offers a slightly different approach. Cumberland still needs to define the differences related to underfunding and what is a standardized level of service. When words like "minimum" and "standard" are used, these levels must be clearly defined to serve as a benchmark for development or improvement. Hat's off to Cumberland as the report is meritorious in that it seeks to improve emergency services across the board. However, the determined "service levels" MUST be acted upon; even if it means a department reducing its "size" to allow for improvement elsewhere. These mechanisms MUST be defined up front and not evolve based upon political influence or reactive decision making.

Remember, service is not equated to the size of a fire station, the quantity of apparatus, the number of volunteers or paid staff, how many calls you respond to. Service is actually measured by the satisfaction level of our customers as compared to best practices and national standards. Yep, it's the true measure of success. One fire truck, two, or maybe three, a ladder, a rescue... three FF's on a truck or 4, vols, paid, combos...?? This continually baffling perspective still evades us in Wake County because WE as "the fire service" are allowed to define ourselves based on what we perceive as necessary. For example, there is no set standard for organizational structure (depth and/or expanse). So, if a fire department has too many trucks simply because it's how many they have always had, how do we require their fleet to diminish so savings may occur? This is one example and the list of reductive applications can go on and on... Maybe this post is going a little too far..., but these erratic inconsistencies are root causes for Wake County's dilemma. Yes, NFPA standards related to training and response are present, but it often feels like we can deliver the same level of "service" with a little less resources. So, how does Wake County measure service right now?

Is a public safety sale tax a way for Wake CO?... who knows. It is apparent that Cumberland's Fire Commission will have to establish very solid ground rules or they will evolve unmanaged; and will experience many of the issues we now contend with in Wake Co.

A.C. Rich - 02/18/10 - 18:03

Chief, you make very good points. As we have all had to tighten our belts recently budgets have become more and more in focus. I wonder how much longer any county agency (not just Wake's) will get by with playing by their own rules. I have never been a proponent of overt county control but ground rules would go a long way. It surprises me how governmental spending goes so un-checked (relatively so) for each individual department. I could never get by in the corporate world with the logic of many agencies. I agree that there need to be measurable terms that can be tested for progress and merit when providing funds. I think it was wrong in 'the days of plenty' to spend as recklessly as we have, but it's even more inappropriate in this day and age. I think it's a great idea to implement some additional appropriation of taxes to go to public service, but we've got to all be on the same level ground first.(I can already see the dead horse rising...beat away)

Mike H. - 02/18/10 - 19:26

What might a level playing field look like in Wake County? At least for the fire service? And not necessarily with parity in stations and staffing and apparatus. We've discussed (and bitched about) those things before. The Cumberland County report left **me** thinking about service levels. And beyond response times. Levels of service such as, say, first responder.

Some fire departments in Wake County have EMTs (and at a couple levels of EMT, correct?), and some have only Medical Responders. What's the citizen impact there? How does that affect patient care? And what's the impact on responders, when two or more departments respond together?

How do service levels apply in fire suppression? Do those living in one district get different suppression than those living in another district? e.g., different skills, training, experience, etc.? Or all line firefighters, city or county, comparable? Then moving up the food chain, the same questions might be asked of line officers and chief officers. Heck, even of big chiefs, of which we have apples, oranges, and pears in Wake County. (Full-time, part-time, and volunteer.) Wait, did I just call somebody pear-shaped??

We're doing good in Wake County, really. Read accounts from other areas, and economic troubles have taken their toll. You guys and gals are saving lives and preserving property. Kudos all around. What we're talking here is, I guess, optimization. Getting things tighter, righter, and better. Efficiency-izing.

Legeros - 02/18/10 - 20:28

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E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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Comment:

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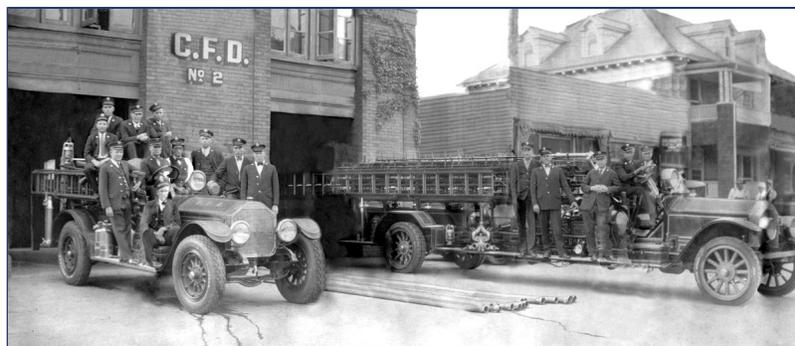
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Dilworth Fire Station - Back in the Day

02/18/10 114 W, 1 I - + 4 - 8

We posted this photo in December 2008, but it bears re-posting. It's the Dilworth Fire Station in Charlotte in the 1920s. That's an American LaFrance Service Truck. By 1929, CFD had four of them, and three of which also carried hose. Don't know if they were quads, equipped with pumps, or just combination trucks, equipped with chemical tanks. Can't quite tell in this photo. Based on Sanborn Map descriptions, however, I am guessing they're combination trucks only. No pumps, or they'd be listed on the map descriptions. And they're not listed with any pump capacities included. But I am prepared to be corrected! Click to enlarge:



Thanks Mike!

DC - 02/18/10 - 18:14

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E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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Yes

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Lakeview Drive, 1997

02/18/10 118 W, 1 I - + 11 - 3

Here's a new old photo recently found. A neighbor took this picture of a 25,000 square-foot mansion overlooking Carolina Country Club, that burned on December 19, 1997. The three-level structure at 2745 Lakeview Drive was reported ablaze about 5 a.m. that Friday morning. It had been under construction for a year, and was nearly complete. The home was worth at least \$3 million, and included a 20-seat movie theater. Two alarms were struck. Units on scene included E9, E11, E16, E4, T16, T1, R6, R7, C51, C53, SR5, C5, C4, C3, C2, C1, C10, C198, and T8 and E14, both special called. Companies remained on scene the entire next day, with new recruits also on scene. [Click to enlarge:](#)



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Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

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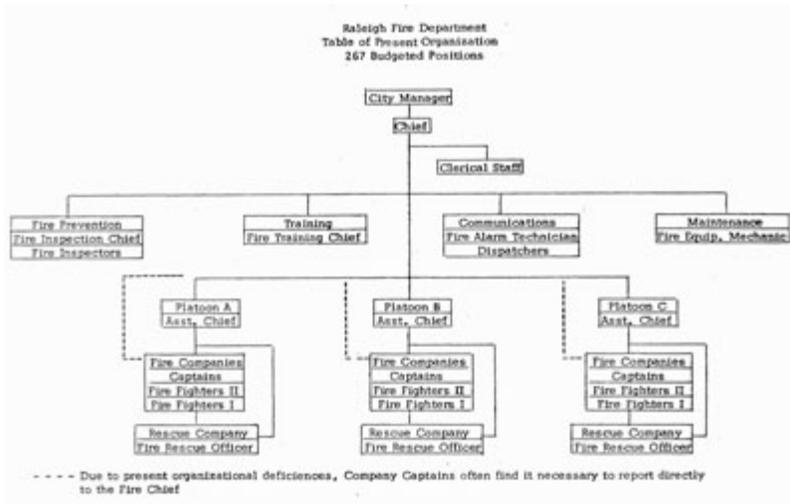
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Raleigh Fire Department Reorganizes, 1971

02/19/10 129 W, 2 I - + 14 - 5

In the beginning there was a Fire Chief, Assistant Chief, and two companies of firefighters. That was 1912. Two platoons were created in 1924. A second Assistant Chief was added about that time. Support staff slowly appeared. Secretaries. Telephone operators. Mechanics. Fire alarm system technicians. Inspectors were added after the creation of the Fire Prevention Bureau in 1949. And they kept building stations, and kept adding firefighters. By 1971, the organizational structure was ready for reevaluation. The North Carolina League of Municipalities was contacted, the fire department was surveyed, and a report returned. It recommend a reorganization, which shifted Assistant Chiefs to day duty, added District Chiefs, and resulted in other changes.

For your Friday enjoyment, [read the story that reorganization](#) .



Interesting to see this....pretty cool.

Silver - 02/19/10 - 12:10

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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment:

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Photos From Austin / Plane Crash

02/19/10 64 W, 1 I - + 11 - 6

The *Austin American-Statesman* has a gallery of strong photos from [yesterday's plane crash in Austin, TX](#). They include aerial views, with a good perspective of entire incident area. [View the photos](#). Wonder what the response was, in alarm levels, companies, and special units? [Let's ask on the Firehouse forums](#). Maybe we'll get answer.



Alberto Martinez/Austin American-Statemans Photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Photos From Clinton / Roof Collapse

02/19/10 68 W, 1 I - + 11 - 6

WTVD has [posted aerial photos](#) from yesterday's roof collapse at a church in Sampson County, with views of the scene from all sides. The *Sampson Independent* is also [reporting on the story](#). Their photo is ground-level and has the church sign in the foreground, which bears the ironic (?) message "God's speaking, are you listening?" It's all about composition.



WTVD photo

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

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No

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Legeros Blog Facebook Page Created

02/19/10 33 W - + 9 - 10

We've created a [Facebook](#) fan page for this blog.

Simply search on **Legeros Blog** and join as desired.

We'll try some discussion topics there, and see what happens.

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Fishbowls?

02/19/10 50 W - + 12 - 9

Friday discussion topic.

What are the best/worst stations for the fishbowl effect? With windows and people on all sides? Raleigh, Durham, Wake, anywhere.

And a meta-question. Are high-visibility fire stations better for communities? Is there a sweet spot between "out there" and "tucked back?"

Personal opinion only; Engine 5's house, and Engine 7/ Rescue 2 can probably be considered "fish bowl" firehouses. I love a firehouse with foot traffic, breaks up the boredom sometimes. Make us high-viz, versus behind a shopping center or in the back of a business park. Really makes you feel appreciated when you're staring at the back of a grocery store and its' dumpsters.

Of course cash is king. Get the cheapest land possible. However, it never hurts to improve the morale of the troops as well as giving a more ideal location for efficiency. Engine 20/ Ladder 7 is a pretty bad location and I'd consider them "tucked away". Terrible run streets with a lot of Bambi's running around. I'd cringe every night when driving down Trailwood. Gorman and Avent Ferry, or maybe even Gorman and Thistledown would have been a better spot.

Silver - 02/19/10 - 12:07

Apex #1 is a great location for interaction with the public... Not so great for apparatus due to the short ramp and tight quarters though. We enjoy being downtown and talking to the passers-by. We get more comments thanking us for what we do, which gives you a better attitude overall, I feel. When you are out of sight, you are also out of mind! We as a profession already are not at the forefront of most people's mind as far as a necessity... Stick the firehouse on the main street, make it look nice, and throw some tradition into the station like a pole!

Bob P. - 02/19/10 - 13:19

Cary Firehouse 2 is right up there, tons of vehicle and foot traffic. Sitting on the bumper on the front ramp in the evenings always proved to be entertaining. I've watched wrecks, fires, drug busts, traffic stops and DWI checkpoints from that vantage point. Add in that it's the oldest house in town and busy and it makes for a great assignment.

I also enjoyed my time spent at Apex #1 for the unique downtown firehouse feel it has. It's what I would envision for a downtown house. Tons of bays, 2 stories and ramp as a sidewalk.

shevais - 02/19/10 - 15:23

The entire day room of Raleigh Station 12 faces a very busy gas station and convenience store. Funny story about that. We were working on the yearbook there, and I came over one night, drove into the back parking lot, and waltzed up and walked in through the back door. Thought they'd seen me driving in. Nope, the blinds were closed, and the TV was loud. There was some surprised firemen when that back door swung open unexpectedly!

Legeros - 02/19/10 - 18:12

Yup, had TONS of good times at AFD #1. I remember the days when the sidewalks were rolled up at 8:30pm and nobody would be walking by. The town has definitely come a long way, and who would have thought that there would be people enjoying cocktails at a restaurant next door, and four other restaurants on the block!!

Silver - 02/19/10 - 20:29

Wake County EMS Station 1 has lots of foot traffic outside! Not only people going to court, but lots of people going to and from various downtown parking areas and restaurants. Lots of cops park on both sides of Davie to go to court, which makes for interesting times too, lots of people pulled over on our apron through the years. Makes operations exciting sometimes.

Now Wake County Fire Marshals, Wake County EMS Admin, and Wake County EM all share the front offices, so we have people coming in and

out all the time. Not to mention the 3 stationed ambulances and district chief out of downtown, we have special event trucks and Truck 1. We also have oxygen supplies for the central part of the county and do a lot of repairs and upgrades to the MDTs and InMotion boxes on the county ambulances.

Backing in can be a real maze with ambulances, admin vehicles, public walking, etc.

But there is nothing like sitting in the bay and watching all the excitement. The best is when boyfriends/girlfriends park across the street to say hi to their significant others in the jail above us!

Downtown EMS - 02/20/10 - 08:46

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Chief Lloyd's Budget Notes, 1948

02/20/10 639 W - + 11 - 8

Budget documents are great. They're valuable perspectives for the public into the operations and organization of government. They're great aids for historians, who seek to piece together the prior infrastructures. Below is the budget note from Raleigh Fire Chief Alvin Lloyd, for expenditures estimated for Fiscal Year 1948-49. This appears to be a working document, used to submit an approved budget. The final approved figures were added in handwriting. Enjoy.

City of Raleigh
North Carolina
City Operation Fund
Expenditure Estimate for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1949

Department Name - Public Safety
Division Name - Fire

Explanatory comment by department head or city manager

You will note that I have requested that members of the Fire Division be given an increase in salary, which, after careful investigation, I find is comparable with other cities in the state. Due to the increased cost of living and the fact that the firemen average 12 working hours for the year round, I feel that this increase is well deserved. I feel that this increase in salary will be an inducement in obtaining better material and men of height and character for the Fire Division.

I would recommend that the future employees of this division have at least an education of finishing the tenth grade. I have asked that the entrance salary be increased to \$180 per month for the first 90 days and at the end of that time to be increased to \$190 per month for the following nine months, then they will increase to \$200 per month for one year. At the end of two years they will increase to \$215 per month, which will be the maximum salary for firemen. Increased responsibility deserve a small increase over the regular firemen's salary.

I further recommend that all Lieutenants be promoted to Captains, in as much as their duties are exactly the same and the responsibility is equal when on duty.¹ I further recommend that 20 new men be placed on the Fire Division and one Telephone Operator. This will fill the division up to where we will have full companies in all stations, to be divided as follows: No. 1 station 13 men; No. 2 station 12 men; No. 3 station 8 men; No. 4 station 8 men; No. 5 station 8 men; No. 6 station (to be built with one engine company with 4 men to each shift, 1 ladder truck² with four men to each shift and 1 crash truck³ with two men to each shift) total men at No. 6 station 20 men. The increase of 20 new men will be \$45,000 for the first year and for the on telephone operator \$15,30 for the first year.⁴

Signed, A. B. Lloyd.

¹Lieutenants versus Captains back in the day? Need to research that. The rank was subsequently recreated in 1992, as a new name for Firefighter II or Engineer.

²The budget included this note about a ladder truck: One new city service truck (this truck is needed for new No. 6 station to give quicker service to the residents of the western and north parts of the city. This will also leave a ladder truck in service for the next fire. As it now is we are without a ladder truck after leaving on the first fire call, until the fire is out and we return to station. The city service truck we now have has to go some five or six miles to some fires.) Alas, no new service truck was authorized, and Truck 6 was placed in service with the [1922 American LaFrance](#) that was moved from at Station 2. It was cross-staffed with personnel assigned to the aerial ladder at Station 2.

³The crash truck, which was a pick-up truck with firefighting equipment, was budgeted as \$1,400 (truck) and \$1,000 (equipment). This was purchased and placed in a service, a [1948 Ford F3 auxiliary truck](#) that replaced an older Dodge that was totaled in an accident in 1947.

⁴The approved budget for that fiscal year was \$192,095.

Mystery Meal

02/20/10 31 W, 1 I - + 10 - 6

Whose chicken is awaiting their return from a fire alarm? Hints: the bird was grilled, and served with baked beans and broccoli.



Station 1; Engine 1, Engine 13 and Ladder 4, I guess! i am off today but looks like their table!

jason lane - 02/20/10 - 22:18

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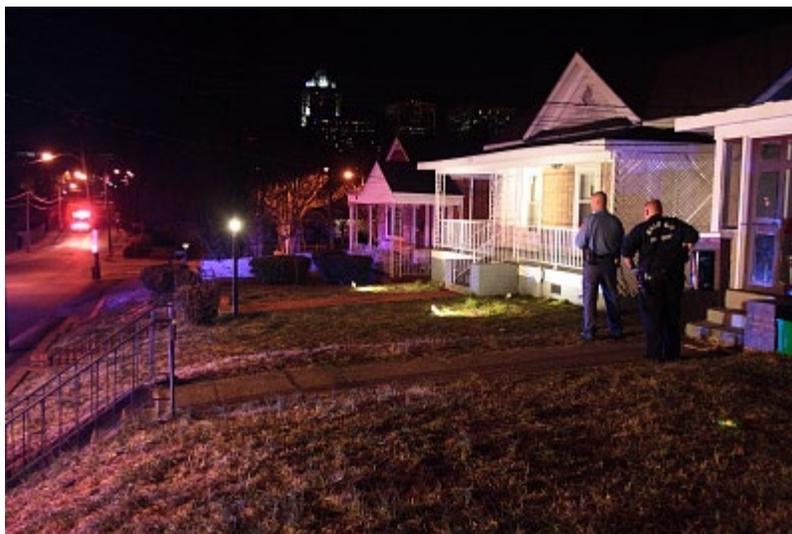
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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Night in the City

02/20/10 70 W, 1 I - + 10 - 6

That's EMS 8 arriving in the 500 block of East Lenoir Street, where Engine 3 and District 1 are tending a patient with a puncture wound. That is, a stabbing. Plus a number of police officers, including a four-legged patrolman. Early evening incident, about the same time as the jump and run on Trawick Road. WRAL says they're still looking for that person.



Name: (real name preferred)
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Remember personal info?

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The Year in Photos, The Year in Numbers

02/21/10 202 W - + 9 - 5

We're doing a little archiving this morning on the photo site. Moving the December photos of Mike's from the [home page](#) to the [archive page](#). Lee's photos already live on a second site, and are easily found via his [archives](#). (Though the oldest-to-newest sorting of Flickr archives is certainly annoying. And does not appear to be changeable.) People occasionally ask "how many photos did you take" or "how big are your archives." Let's take a peek at my files from last year:

- 309 folders, which represent individual incidents, events, or occasions for picture-taking. Nearly all are local. Travel photos not included.
- 189 folders feature RFD, and mostly with other agencies, most commonly Wake EMS and Six Forks EMS.
- 15,019 original photos, Canon RAW format. Not necessarily all posted for a given incident or event.
- 16,121 posted photos, JPEG format. Travel photos included.
- 180GB estimated file size of original photos.
- 4.5GB estimated file size of posted photos.

And how many hard drives are involved in said storage? Two primary, with back-ups for both, plus an off-site copy. Still working on optimum solution there. Preferably I'd have active clones. Need to make that happen some time.

Good stats Mike. When you reach the point that you really want to consider some type of RAID setup I would recommend a DROBO. (drobo.com).

Very reliable and priced reasonably.

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 02/21/10 - 16:27

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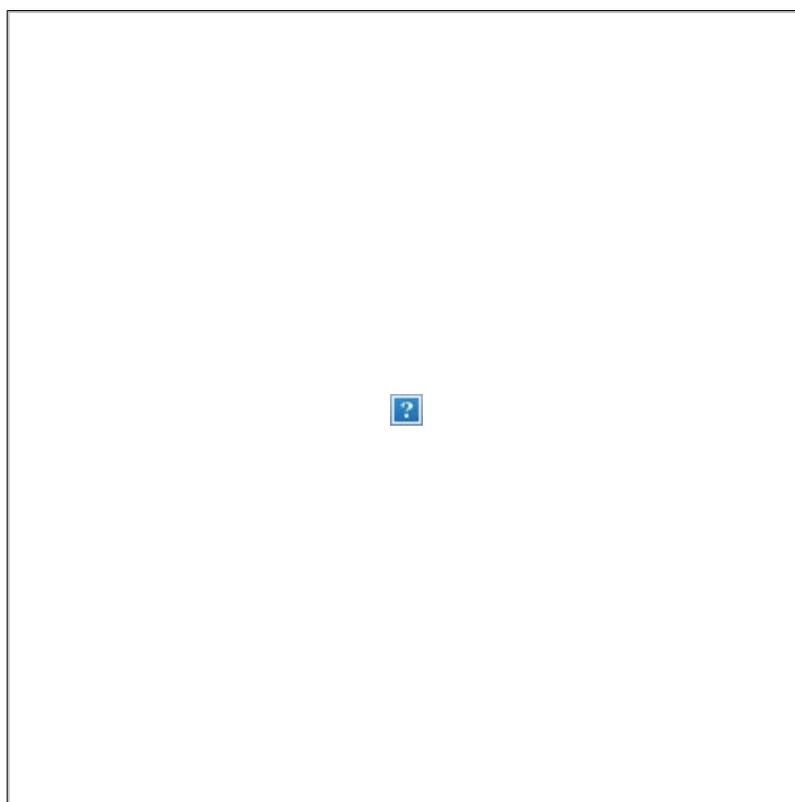
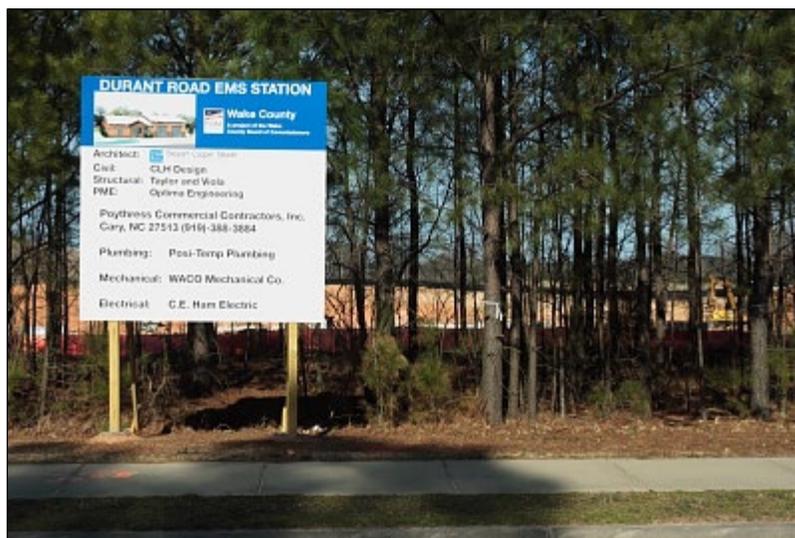
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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

Durant Road EMS Station

02/21/10 71 W, 2 I - + 17 - 8

Construction is underway on the Wake County EMS Durant Road Station, located in the 10000 block of Durant Road. Details of the building are available on the [architect's web site](#), which note that the facility will feature two back-in vehicle bays and house up to two EMS crews. The living quarters are a space-saving multipurpose room, that combines kitchen, dining, day room, and office functions. [Read more.](#)



This station will house what EMS unit(s)?

Will this station reduce the run times for SFEMS 123 and EMS 5 or has that all changed?

Also is the same said for Garner Fire/Wake EMS station?

Buckwheat - 02/22/10 - 11:20

Really surprised to see Wake County still building EMS stations, seeing how busy the EMS units are.

Silver - 02/22/10 - 12:26

Well, they can't sleep in their trucks, can they?

Zzzz - 02/22/10 - 13:57

I mean, Cops sleep in their cars don't they? KIDDING!!

Let's hear from some EMS folks on this topic. Do you guys that work 24's sleep often? What's the consensus in the agency on the 12 hour tours versus 24's? As busy as you guys are, I would've thought all rigs would be working 12's. But, as much as a strain that would be financially I guess I can see why you guys aren't.

Silver - 02/22/10 - 14:05

Anyone know where to find a map of current City and County EMS stations and the units that run out of them?

I recall seeing a list of them recently but not a map.

Wonder why Wake EMS didn't approach RFD about adding one more bay to house an EMS truck? Such as RFD#22 for example.

Or if they did, why didn't it happen? Was the whole city/county thing? Who pays who and for how much space etc?

Not sturing the pot here but curious..that's all.

One last thing is Wake EMS changing their fleet of ambulances now? Are we going to see more Freightliners on the horizon?

Buckwheat - 02/22/10 - 16:31

I think it has been said that a goal of the Wake County EMS System might be all 12-hour trucks. Maybe CHIEF 100 or someone could clarify that one. That being said, an entire additional shift would have to be added to convert the existing 24-hour shift units, which is a substantial cost, especially in these economic times.

There are many 24-shift units left. My agency staffs two of them. As to sleep, we do alright. Since September I can count on one hand the number of times we did not sleep most of the night, if not all. No doubt that will change in the future, but it is pretty cool right now. Other units, however, are not so lucky.

Me personally, I do not like the 12-hour shifts. I may work fewer hours, but I have less usable time off, whether I want to go fishing, chill at home, or generate additional income. I tried the 12 hour shifts last year, and for the period I worked them, I had no days off that I was not working somewhere, and for that period actually took home less money. And after a couple of weeks I was exhausted.

DJ - 02/22/10 - 19:24

@Buckwheat – This station will house EMS-15 that will go from a 12-hour peak load truck to a 24-hour truck by the end of the year when the station is completed. Raleigh was approached several years ago with the concept, but due to setback regulations and the small parcel that 22 was built upon, expansion was not an option. There was no city/county conflict, it was just with the programmed square footage required to add a functional component to the facility for a permanent EMS fixture, there wasn't the land to make it happen. The land that this facility is being built upon is included in the North Wake Landfill closure program. It will be bordered to the North by a large school complex a few years down the road. Fleet is a moving target. The medium duty trucks cost more up front, but have shown to cost less to maintain down the road and they will last longer. With the on-going changes in diesel emission systems, ambulance chassis choices will vary greatly over the next few years.

@DJ – 12 hours shifts are preferred in locations that experience a regular demand over the 24-hour period that result in the unit being tasked for 40% or greater of their time. Tasked is defined as being assigned on a call, a cover assignment, etc. – anything other than downtime in the station. Studies have indicated, both locally and on a national scale, that this is a good point that the ability of personnel degrade in the later hours of the shifts that you don't want them doing things that require much attention to detail, like driving or doing patient care. You'll see more units moving to 12 hour shifts as demand continues to grow in the County, however there is no master plan to move everything

systemwide to 12-hour shifts. A couple of years ago when the first 12-hour shifts were proposed, personnel didn't like the concept. Today, they are lined up for vacancies.

@Silver – stations are constructed to fill gaps in coverage where another solution (such as a co-location) cannot be implemented. The Durant Road station is an example where EMS has been "posting" a truck at the fire station or other nearby location since around 2001 while exploring many different options for finding a permanent home. As homes and apartments grew in the Triangle Town Center area, so did the call volume 24-hours a day. Having a resource there for 12-hours helped, but we haven't been able to meet response times in that zone using a peak load deployment. The capital plan does have another stand alone facility or two in the coming years, with most of the construction consisting of replacing old stations around the County. These are all in areas where any and all opportunity for co-location has been investigated extensively. And before any land is purchased, those options will be reviewed again to ensure it is the best way to make the deployment happen. Some of these will actually evolve as new co-locations as fire departments expand, such as with the new Garner station off 70 East.

Sorry for the delay in someone responding to the good questions...

Olson - 06/01/10 - 23:39

Congrats to WCEMS! It is good to see the improvements in these economic times and I for one appreciate the continued excellence! Stony Hill (for one) is still enjoying our relationship after 6 years; so for any who are curious, co-location with fire folks will work well if (1) planned and (2) managed afterwards.

A.C. Rich - 06/02/10 - 06:19

Thanks for the detailed information, Jon.

Legeros - 06/02/10 - 07:33

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Yesterday's Haz-Mat Incident / Cary Reserve Drive

02/22/10 59 W - + 7 - 8

[FireNews Incident Reports](#) posted some details on yesterday morning's haz-mat incident in Cary. Dispatched 11:00 a.m. at [2000 Cary Reserve Drive](#). Incident involving hydrogen sulfide. Units on scene included Engine 7, Truck 7, Battalion 1, EMS 54, EMS 52, Medic 95, and District 5. Raleigh responded with a haz-mat team as well. Haven't found any news coverage on web sites, yet.

<http://abclocal.go.com/wtvd/story?sectio..>

A suicide, apparently...

[rfburns] - 02/22/10 - 14:19

<http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2009/03..> Stay safe out there Brothers and Sisters, and be cautious of the vic that doesn't leave a nice warning note for us.

Silver - 02/22/10 - 16:31

This was also covered on firefightersclosecalls.com

Apex Batt Chief - 02/23/10 - 01:04

Google finds these presentation slides on the subject by the Saline County Sheriff's Department in Marshal, Missouri, with content from the New York State Office of Fire Prevention & Control, Hazardous Materials / Homeland Security Bureau.

<http://www.wrongfuldeathinstitute.com/li..>

Legeros - 02/23/10 - 08:03

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

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Morrisville Fire Department CERT Team Gets Grant

02/22/10 93 W - + 10 - 8

As this [Cary News story](#) reports, the town of Morrisville received a \$6,378 grant from Homeland Security, which will be used by the fire department for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The money will purchase equipment including portable radios, safety vests, hard hats, and goggles. Morrisville's CERT team was formed in 2006. Members must complete a four-day, 30-hour training program that educates on topics ranging from fire safety, first aid, and search and rescue. They have 40 members. [Read the article](#), or read about the [national CERT program](#).

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Funny Sign

02/22/10 30 W, 1 I - + 14 - 9

Seen Sunday in the rear window of a red Toyota on Interstate 540. The driver appeared in full control of their accelerator.



So what's worse – driving while texting or driving while taking digital pictures of the car in front of you going 70 mph plus on the interstate? I smell a new law coming.

Olson - 02/24/10 - 01:13

As a Toyota Tundra driver, I love this photo! ;-) I have taken my truck in for the recall and Toyota did do something with the programing in the computer, because I now get 350 to 370 miles out of a tank of gas instead of the old 305 – 310 miles. I just wish it had gotten that when I bought it. Think about the money I would have saved over the 25,000 miles I have odometer!!!

Donaldson - 02/25/10 - 00:03

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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Yes

No

Comment:

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Helmets Approved in Budget, 1950

02/23/10 319 W - + 7 - 6

This week we're digging through a couple decades of budget documents, notably 1949 to 1961. Quite a few finds have been found. From recommended staffing levels, to expanded command staff, to even a proposed company of black firefighters. We're planning to post excerpts, as well as a full collection comments, at a later time. Today, let's turn to PPE, specifically helmets.

We've [written about RFD helmet history before](#), and included photos. During the first half of the 20th Century, city firefighters wore dress caps at fire scenes. That's what's seen in photos, and what the oldest retirees remember. From the budget docs, helmets were proposed at least as early as 1949. The proposed expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1950, included \$1,520 for "firemen's helmets." Not approved.

The budget for the following fiscal year, 1950-51, expanded the description: "73 helmets for men already employed. These helmets are considered essential for the men to give them as much protection as possible when combating fire and being in dangerous places." The \$1,205 expenditure was approved, along with "uniforms, shirts, bunker suits, boots, etc. for men already employed."¹

So there we have it, helmets approved and presumably purchased after June 30, 1950. That aligns with [this historic film footage](#), for example, which shows helmets in action on November 25, 1950, at a fire at St. Augustine's College. Other old media should also confirm.

¹Bunker suits and boots, does that mean that the first PPE was also acquired at that time? Not sure. The *News & Observer* on January 1, 1944, reported the arrival of a shipment of waterproof "globe suits," which had been ordered that fall. Don't know if all personnel were issued same. Don't know if boots were issued as well. To be determined. Additionally, in days of very old, Raleigh's volunteer firefighters had rubber coats, or some companies did. Don't have specific years or decades at hand for citation, however.

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Remember personal info?

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

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Statesville Fire Chief Dies While Fighting Blaze, 1936

02/23/10 166 W - + 12 - 6

On Sunday, November 16, 1936, Statesville Fire Chief W. L. Neely, 53, died while fighting a fire at the home of G. E. French. Chief Neely was apparently overcome by heat and smoke while in the attic of the house. He was dead by the time he was brought to the yard, with the cause of death declared as a heart attack. Chief Neely had had heart trouble for some time. The funeral was held at his residence on Davie Avenue on Tuesday, November 18, and burial followed in the family plot at Oakwood Cemetary. William Lloyd Neely was born in Rowan County, but had lived in Statevilles since childhood. He had served in the fire department for about 25 years, including a number of years as Assistant Chief and Fire Chief. He was a former city tax collector, and had worked in the retail grocery business for many years. He was survived by a wife and ten children. Source: *News & Observer*, November 16, 1936.

Name: (real name preferred)
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Massive Live Burn in Duplin County

02/23/10 121 W, 2 I - + 13 - 9

That's the accurate headline of the day, from [FireNews](#) and about the recent burning of Chinquapin School and Teacherage in Duplin County. The 85 year-old structure on Highway 41 was scheduled for demolition. On Saturday, February 6, ten fire departments and over 120 personnel participated in exterior and interior drills. The day ended with the big burn, and a large crowd of spectators, as the [Wallace Enterprise reports](#). Burning the structure, they note, saved the county some \$30,000 in landfill fees. [See more photos on FireNews](#). The Beulaville Fire Department also has a few "before" photos on [Facebook](#). Search "Beulaville Fire" to find their page.



Susan Johnson / FireNews photo



Beulaville Fire Department / Facebook photo

No asbestos? How did they manage THAT??? That's a pretty awesome structure to burn in, though. Luck were the FFs that got in on that one. I bet they were tired of by the time they were done.

Duda - 02/24/10 - 10:19

From what I hear it had asbestos in it but it was removed prior to the burn, don't know who was responsible but they had ALOT of paperwork to do. Also note there were at least 5 live burn instructors present.

car3550 - 02/24/10 - 16:30

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

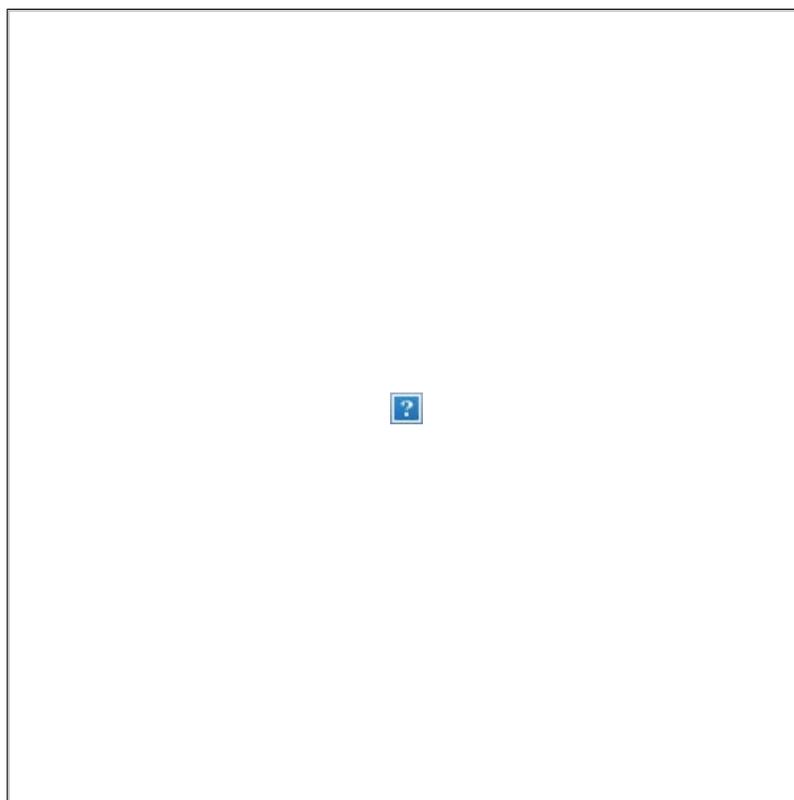
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MDCs and AVLs and Fire Departments

02/23/10 214 W, 1 I - + 13 - 7

While we continue discussing old-school dispatching [in this prior posting](#), here's an open thread on mobile data consoles (MDCs) or mobile data terminals (MDTs), as well as automatic vehicle locators (AVL) as they are or could be used by fire departments in Raleigh, Wake County, and surrounding areas. Mobile consoles are already here. Cary rides with 'em. Raleigh's installed a couple so far, plus those in Battalion Chief's vehicles. Morrisville has 'em, and Apex is getting them. Who else? (And how are they used, and how well are they working?)

Next question, AVL. The Wake County EMS System effectively utilizes automatic vehicle location because, among other things, all ambulances are apples to apples. They're all paramedic ambulances, and each with minimum staffing. Enable AVL for fire departments and some service levels or unit criteria would probably be required. You'd want a minimum staffing assurance, so you get the same water + tools + people no matter where a fire unit was automatically located. Uh oh, might have crossed into dying horse territory there! Next obvious question is jurisdictions, and implications therein. Wonder if AVL is better within a single district (or system), than across multiple? e.g., fine for Raleigh or Cary, but maybe more challenging across multiple departments?



That would require the county to use it's singular fire tax district, take true control of all the county departments, bring us all up to minimum staffing, and rename all the departments. Not to mention making sure all the "equal" apparatus have all the same minimum tools, equipment, pump and water capacity, and standardizing all the apparatus to be able to move personnel seamlessly between stations like they do with EMS. It would effectively eliminate volunteerism within the county and would cost more than the county has or is willing to spend. And I've probably only covered *half of what it would entail.

As for jurisdictional lines, since most stations abutting municipalities have M/A or closest-unit agreements (if not all of us), I doubt boundary

lines would be an issue. Rather, for example, if WWP196 is out for dinner on Lake Boone Trail and RE14 is out of quarters on another call, if a call comes in that WWP196 is closer to according to the CAD and AVL, why not send that unit rather than the next closest RFD unit? I'm sure our Medical Director would agree with that on medical calls, and property owners would agree with it in a fire-suppression or property conservation situation. It could be good OR bad.

I think it would be the minimum staffing per unit and minimum equipment ability issues that would be the greater factors in the equation. But that's just *my opinion.

Duda - 02/24/10 - 10:12

Having MDC/MDT units in fire apparatus is absolutely necessary, especially in a system as busy as Wake County. We use MDTs in Charlotte and it is worth every penny. You have the exact address, nature, units on the call, maps, directions, hydrant locations, hazards, even pre-plans right at your finger tips. No having to flip pages in the map or pre-plan book, or ciphering what the dispatcher (or locution) gave as the street address, and all the updates that are put into CAD right in front of you. Updates are also an issue here as we too don't get all the updates that MEDIC gets in their computers; we also don't stage.

AVL has its pros and cons. I think it's great when CAD picks the closest unit that's out of the station when a call comes in. One of the downsides to AVL is that the "closest unit" is not always the "closest unit". CAD might say a unit is faster as the crow flies, but it doesn't take into account a better routing, known short cuts, traffic, residential streets vs faster, wider streets, etc;. I know this is going to sound like the "this is my area" argument, but there a lot of times, that AVL says another unit is closer, even though it is in our area, but we can smoke that company in all day long in the real world due to the above reasons. When units are responding from quarters, they are strategically placed to cover designated areas the fastest. AVL is best when there are no designated locations to respond from, IE: MEDIC, who doesn't have stations, just stages units where coverage is needed.

I definately agree with Duda about staffing, training, equipment, etc; but that horse has been beaten several times.

Rides An Engine - 02/24/10 - 12:27

Here is a question that may start a whole new issue... If you have AVL, can you get the "system" to recognize that a unit is second due to a call and divert them to a more pressing call? For instance, I ride Engine 4, and we are responding 2nd due with Engine 5 to a fire alarm. Low priority call verses say a code blue. The code blue comes in and we are closer by several miles due to the fire alarm in progress, however, we do not get the call or even hear it unless we keep a radio on dispatch and jump it. Is there a system out there that is smart enough to divert Engine 4 to the code blue and send another engine 2nd due to Engine 5?

Donaldson - 02/25/10 - 00:24

I like having the capabilities of the MDT. With that said, I don't like the way they are mounted in the E450 chassis- I personally believe them to be a safety hazard. It's an obstruction to the driver's view, as well as an obstruction to the passenger. But, they are mounted where they need to be mounted, so until we can all get Freightliner, Navistar, or Spartan chassis ambulances, it will have to do.

My only real gripe with the MDTs (and the call report computers) is that we are not using them to their full potential. I would like to see some sort of pre-plan software in the EMS MDTs (that maybe coming, I don't know), as well as some sort of photograph display on the navigation software. Maybe the USDOT ERG program. Maybe some sort of real-time traffic condition and weather access.

It would be nice to also have the treatment protocols loaded into the PCR laptops. Maybe some sort of reference materials.

Just thinking off of the top of my head here.....

DJ - 02/25/10 - 00:37

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Night and Light

02/23/10 39 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

Motor-vehicle accident with injuries and extrication on Creedmoor Road and Milbrook Road with Engine 16, Ladder 3, Rescue 3, Battalion 4, EMS 3, EMS 121, Medic 94, and District 4. Dispatched a little while ago. More later.



Hey Mike, Great Pic!

I was wondering if you knew the story behind the big white rescue truck sitting next to Garner EMS for the past couple of weeks?

Coleman Rickels - 02/24/10 - 19:11

It's orange county's rescue truck. It was owned/leased through KS bank. I'm unsure if it's "repoed" or what? Since KS is right across the street they are storing it there.

Knowing - 02/24/10 - 20:05

Yes, that's the story that I heard, and that disposition of the truck is pending. Probably resold?

Legeros - 02/24/10 - 20:13

Would that be the truck from Orange County rescue squad in Hillsborough, that had issue with the county a few months ago? I notice their bays are rather empty these days

Paul - 02/25/10 - 10:03

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

How To Receive E-mail Alerts of New Blog Postings

02/24/10 119 W - + 7 - 7

If you didn't know, you can receive e-mail alerts each time a new topic is posted to this blog. You can even receive e-mail each time someone posts a comment in reply. Here's how:

1. Scroll to the bottom of any blog topic.
2. Locate the **Post Comment** and **Preview Comment** buttons.
3. Click the link to the right of these buttons labeled **(Register your username / Log in)**.
4. The Log in as a registered visitor page displays.
5. Click **Register a new username**.
6. Complete the fields.
7. Click **Register**.

You'll be sent an e-mail to confirm your registration. Follow the link, and log into the blog to activate your account. Let me know of questions.

Name: (real name preferred)
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Remember personal info?

Yes
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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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Raleigh City Council Fights Over Lightner Public Safety Center

02/24/10 91 W - + 11 - 7

The *Independent Weekly* has [another good article](#) on the city's public safety center project, and a detailed summary of the seven objections raised by a trio of City Council members. As writer Bob Geary notes, the three members first broached the issues softly, but became more vocal at last week's meeting, where they denounced both the project and the process. The council attempts another vote on March 5, which is the fifth time it's been listed on the meeting agenda. [Read the article.](#)

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

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Chemical Suicides and First Responder Safety

02/24/10 304 W - + 7 - 11

As comments to the [prior posting](#) indicated, Sunday's haz-mat incident in Cary was reportedly a chemical suicide, where arriving units found a vehicle with warning signs indicating the presence of hazardous material. [Read WTVB story](#). So what's a chemical suicide, and what should responders be aware of?

Google finds these [PowerPoint slides](#) from the [Wrongful Death & Injury Institute Inc.](#), from a presentation given and/or sponsored by the Saline County Sheriff's Department in Marshall, Missouri. The content includes information from the New York State Office of Fire Prevention & Control, Hazardous Materials / Homeland Security Bureau. Below is a summary of salient points found in the excellent presentation. Kudos to the author(s).

Chemical Suicides

- Recent trend in Japan.
- People mix household chemicals to create deadly hydrogen sulfide gas.
- They use small rooms or confined spaces, and affix signs warning responders.
- Gas can spread and sicken others in vicinity.
- Instructions readily available on Internet.

Warning Signs For Responders

- Vehicles, residential bathrooms, and small spaces where gas quickly reaches lethal concentrations
- Vehicles with clear and obvious warning signs, or with less-obvious warning signs laid on dashboard.
- Open containers, pails, buckets, pots, or other containers where chemicals have been mixed.
- Signs that a chemical reaction has been initiated.

Notes For Dispatchers

- Be alert for chemical suicide types of calls.
- Warn callers not to approach or enter rooms or vehicles.
- Initial questioning may yield vital information, e.g. warning signs, strange smells, etc.
- Immediately relay information to responders.

Notes For Responders

- Warning signs may be removed or become dislodge prior to arrival.
- Carefully size-up situations involving unresponsive people in enclosed spaces.
- Look for indications of chemical mixing, such as improvised containers.
- If possibility that victim is sleeping, use PA system or siren to wake them.
- Follow haz-mat response protocols, of course.

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - Wake County Apparatus Rosters, « Chemical Suicides and... » Hazing? 1994

Wake County Apparatus Rosters, 1994

02/24/10 48 W, 1 I - + 14 - 7

Random artifact, Wake County fire department rosters from 1994. Don't know the purpose of the document. Would have been neat had Cary, Raleigh, and Raleigh-Durham Airport been included. Notice the municipal Zebulon Fire Department is also omitted. Click to read the PDF scan:

GLAYSON

DEPARTMENT	Pumpers	Pumper Tanker	Tankers	Mini Pumpers	Heavy Rescue	Brush	Command	Aerial Appar.	Others	Total
Apex	3	1	2		1	2		1	2	12
Baytral	2	3	1		1	1			2	10
Cary	(5)				(1)	(1)		(1)	(10)	
Durham Hwy.	2	1	2			1			1	7
Fairgrounds	1	1	2			1			1	6
Fairview	2	1	4		1					8
Falls		3				1				4
Fuquay Varina	4	1	4			1			3	13
Garner	2	4	2			3	1		3	15
Holly Springs	2	2	2			1			1	6
Hopkins		2	1			1			2	6
Knightdale	1	4	1	1		1			2	9
Morrisville		5				2			2	9
Raleigh										
R.D. Airport					(1)				(5)	(6)
Rolesville	3		2	1		1			1	8
Six Forks	1	2	1			1			1	6
Sony Hill	1	2	1			2				6
Swift Creek	1	2	2			1				6
Wake Forest	2	1	2		1	2			2	10
Wake New Hope	2	2	5	2	1	1			1	14
Wendell	2	2	1			2	1		3	11
Yrac		3				1			1	5
Zebulon	(2)							(1)	(1)	(4)
Zebulon Rural	1	1	2			1				5
TOTAL	31	41	36	4	5	27	2	1	28	176

This was a county-maintained inventory of contracted-department apparatus. The non-contracted departments were shown in parenthesis. It was used for a variety of reasons, including resource list for large events. In later years, these were used to begin determining how many 800 MHz radios would have to be purchased.

Chris - 02/25/10 - 09:01

Bit o' trivia. Raleigh provided contract fire protection back in the day. In the 1970s, they covered some property south on 401. That was also the time that the city foresaw expansion south, and even anticipated a fire station out that way.

Legeros - 02/25/10 - 09:14

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Upcoming St. Baldrick's Events

02/25/10 65 W - + 8 - 4

February 27 - Hibernian Restaurant & Pub - Raleigh

- [Raleigh Fire Department](#)

March 6 - Napper Tandy's Irish Pub - Raleigh

- [Cleveland Fire Department](#)
- [Durham Highway Fire Rescue](#)
- [Firefighters For Kids](#)
- [Garner Fire-Rescue](#)
- [RDU Fire Rescue](#)
- [Stony Hill Fire Department](#)
- [UNC Air Care & Friends](#)

What other teams are participating, and what other events are happening? Shear pleasure that supports a good cause.

Knightdale Guns & Hoses; Napper Tandy's March 6

C.Parker ([Email](#)) - 02/26/10 - 09:23

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

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Back in the Day

02/25/10 73 W, 1 I - + 10 - 7

Speaking of station life, here's a rare photo. This is the apparent combination kitchen and dayroom at old Station 3, which existed at 135 E. Hargett Street from 1913 to 1951. The image dates to the early 1940s. Don't know who's who. Cards and Coke, it appears. There's a floorplan and exterior photos available on [this station page](#). The 1898 structure was demolished in 1952, and replaced with... a parking lot. Click to enlarge:



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 - Yesterday's House Fire / < Back in the Day > Dam Annoying Idea, Ne... South East Street

Yesterday's House Fire / South East Street

02/26/10 130 W, 1 I - + 9 - 15

As this [NBC17 story reports](#), yesterday afternoon's house fire at [527 S. East Street](#) prompted a pre-arrival assist from neighbors and passers-by, who rescued two people from the two-story structure. They grabbed and ladder and helped a woman down who had escaped to a first-floor (?) roof from the smoke-filled second story. Another person rescued a wheelchair-bound man from the porch. He was transported for evaluation. Engines 1, 13, 2, 5, Ladder 4, Rescue 3, Battalion 2 (command), Car 10, Car 20, Air 1, EMS 2, EMS 1, EMS 55, Medic 94, and District 1 (first arriving) responded. It was dispatched about 4:42 p.m. The fire started in a bed in an upstairs room, report investigators. Read a [second account on WTVD](#), which include aerial and ground photos. The 2,944 square-foot, wood-frame structure was built in 1920, say tax records.



WTVD photo

noticed in channel 11's coverage that ladder 4 is operating the reserve platform. how much damage did the alf ladder sustain in it's recent crash, and when will the new tiller be arriving in raleigh?

charlie ([Email](#)) - 02/26/10 - 10:46

Charlie, the ALF didnt sustain any major damage in the wreck with the SUV. There was a concern about some metal on metal rubbing coming from one of the outriggers, so they pulled it from service to be safe.

As for the new Tiller...different rumor mills have different delivery dates...anytime from Now till October is a good bet to go on.

RFD Ladder Man - 02/26/10 - 16:06

Heard May from one of the Shop guys, but who knows...

Silver - 02/26/10 - 17:29

outriggers or metal on metal from the bed and fly sections of the ladder? As for the delivery of the new tiller agree no telling and different arrival times! Car 3 has sent out pics of the new engines under construction so we will know more when he sends out pics of the truck!!haha
LADDER

Jason Lane - 02/27/10 - 00:56

Dam Annoying Idea, Neighbors Say

02/26/10 121 W - + 10 - 12

Today's *News & Observer* reports on plans for a whitewater park at the bottom of Falls Dam. It's the perfect playground, say proponents, with three-foot waves to thrill kayakers. Just added a couple boulders and some other underwater features, and the thing'll be perfect. Neighbors in the nearby historic condos are less excited. They aren't fans of adding non-native boulders to the river, nor the idea of shifting water out of the north channel and into the south channel. Of course, the river right there's already been messed with, when the dam was built in the late 1970s and early 1980s. We're just happy that the opportunity for a punny headline presented itself. [Read the story.](#)

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

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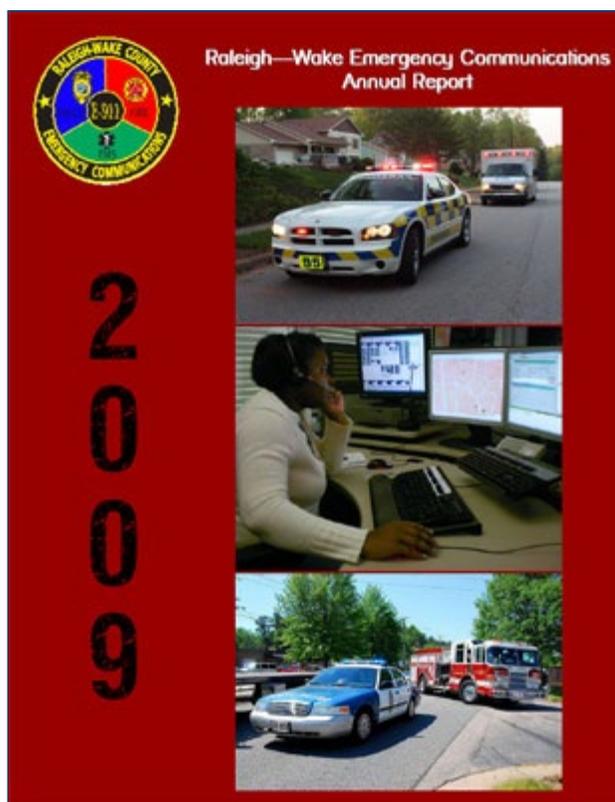
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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Raleigh-Wake Emergency Communications Annual Report

02/26/10 88 W, 2 I - + 7 - 8

For your Friday reading pleasure, here's the [2009 annual report](#) (5.8M) from the Raleigh-Wake County Emergency Communications Center. They've produced a fine end-of-calendar-year document, and that reviews their staff and organization, their stats and accreditation, honors and awards, training and recruiting, and more. Very nice document, and some good stock photography, too! [See the official site](#) for earlier annual reports. This document will be added in the future, and after some site updates are made. Click the cover to read the PDF document:



As always, our friends at RWECC do a tremendous job! Please take a moment to thank these folks when you see or speak to them.

A.C. Rich - 02/28/10 - 00:24

Should also note Today's MVA/Pin on 40, had a GREAT dispatcher working.

J.Boggs - 03/01/10 - 14:34

An awesome blocking pic on wral as well...

Silver - 03/01/10 - 17:32

Oops, blocking...

Silver - 03/01/10 - 17:32

Razzing vs. Hazing - The Quiz

02/27/10 87 W - + 11 - 6

We've been having a [healthy discussion on hazing](#), which was started a couple days ago. What's hazing, what's not hazing. What's to be expected, what's out of bounds. Etcetera. And we've reached some consensus on concepts and language. To facilitate further discussion-- or perhaps just some level-setting-- we've created an accompanying survey. Razzing versus hazing. Thirty examples of behaviors, which you can classify as razzing, hazing, not sure, or neither. Survey closes in one week. Results analyzed afterward.

[Take the quiz.](#)

53 respondents so far. Polls close in five days.

Legeros - 03/01/10 - 21:08

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

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Yes

No

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Mystery Trestle

02/27/10 15 W, 1 I - + 9 - 11

Hint, it's located near railroad tracks.



Norfolk Southern tracks off of the 400 block area Glenwood Avenue.

DJ - 02/27/10 - 11:13

Either the tracks off Capital Blvd. near Wake Forest Rd or Hillsborough St. going towards Cary

Beach ([Email](#)) - 02/28/10 - 13:57

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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

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Blocking on Glenwood Avenue

02/27/10 28 W, 1 I - + 12 - 4

Engine 23, Battalion 4, EMS 123, and Raleigh Police at a motor-vehicle accident west of Ebenezer Church Road late this morning. Photos posted. Click to enlarge:



And the bad thing is, there's probably one idiot out there which tried to weave their way through that piece of art!!

Silver - 02/28/10 - 12:16

I was in the second in unit (EMS121). Actually, the artwork had changed a bit by the time I got there, but, yes, there was not one, but three that tried to weave their way through just after we got there. Thanks to RPD for enthusiastically pointing out the error of their ways...

DJ - 02/28/10 - 17:48

Shoot, so I missed you by mere minutes, DJ!

Legeros - 02/28/10 - 18:09

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

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Yes

No

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Circus Train

02/28/10 100 W, 1 I - + 18 - 9

The [Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus](#) is in town and performing at the RBC Center. They travel by train, and their flatcars are parked on a siding along Hillsborough Street. Their coach cars are parked elsewhere. Can you identify this location? Google finds sundry facts about the train [on this site](#). The trains have an average of 326 personnel, with 33 coach cars for performs and families, four custom animal stock cars, two container flat cars for concession storage, and 17 piggyback flat cars for equipment, props, and vehicles. Total time to unload? Six hours. Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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Yes

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Circus Vehicles

02/28/10 56 W, 1 I - + 15 - 6

Morning explorations find more circus vehicles around town. Third set of rail cars along Hillsborough Street at the Fairgrounds. The shuttle bus moving between downtown and the circus camp. The transport trailers. Impressive operation! Wonder if they hire from FEMA for such logistical skills? [See more photos.](#)



FEMA? Nah. They've been doing this for way longer than FEMA has been around. I bet FEMA could learn a few things from B&B!

Duda - 03/01/10 - 10:21

I thought that was FEMA....

J.Boggs - 03/01/10 - 14:28

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Budget Notes, 1949-1961

02/28/10 352 W, 2 I - + 9 - 9

For your Sunday reading pleasure, here's a [collection of notes, information, and excerpts](#)  for City of Raleigh fiscal years ending June 30 for their respective years. Some annotations are included, to provide context or explanation, and even ask a couple questions. Notable findings from the documents:

- **Apparatus.** New and replacement rigs were often requested, and subsequently cut. The need to replace the 1939/1916 aerial ladder was recognized years before it's replacement arrived in 1958. Same for a second aerial ladder, for Station 5. Plus either expanding or rebuilding Station 5 to accommodate two companies. Second service trucks and squad trucks were requested, but never approved.
- **Assistant Chief, Second.** That position was approved in the 1952-53 budget. The fire department previously had a second Assistant Chief from the 1920s through the mid-1940s.
- **Black firefighters.** They are mentioned by the City Manager in the 1952-53 budget, and in the context of adding a company of black firefighters. This likely followed the lead of Winston-Salem, which added such a company in 1951. Another ten years passed before Raleigh hired its first black firefighters in 1963. Other cities adding black firefighters at that time included Durham in 1958, and Greensboro in 1961.
- **Bunker suits.** They were approved in the 1949-50 budget year. Don't know if these were the first for the department, as "globe suits" were earlier purchased for personnel.
- **Fire Prevention Bureau.** It was formed in 1949, but wasn't established as a separate city department in the budget until the 1950-51 budget year.
- **Helmets.** They were approved in the 1950-51 budget year, and are likely the first helmets for the modern department. Until that time, personnel wore dress caps on scene.
- **Junior Captains.** That was a rank listed in the 1949-50 budget year. Need to research that rank, and when it ended.
- **Pick-up truck.** It was approved in the 1953-54 budget year. Previously, materials and equipment were hauled using either a chief's car or on apparatus.
- **Uniforms.** They were changed to gray washable wear following purchase approval in the 1951-52 budget year. Personnel previously wore dress blues, which were retained for formal occasion.

[Read the entire document](#) 

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

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This Afternoon's Swift Water Rescue

02/28/10 130 W, 1 I - + 16 - 7

Raleigh and Falls fire units on the Neuse River, responding in the vicinity of [3320 Canoe Brook Parkway](#). Dispatched as a drowning for Engine 22, EMS 15, Medic 93, and District 3. Kayak overturned in water several hundred feet upstream from behind that location. Boater found clinging to tree in midstream. Rescue 1 and boat trailer, USAR 801 (swift water rescue unit), and Battalion 1 added to call. Falls units also responded, along with additional EMS resources including EMS 66. Rescue 1 and USAR 801 responded to Falls Lake canon launch area, below dam. Boater reached by Falls firefighter in second craft. Two recovery points established downstream, behind Canoe Brook Parkway and at Capital Boulevard. Boater and firefighter brought to waiting units at first recovery point. Dispatched about 3:30 p.m. Pics soon. Click to enlarge:



They had the same thing down here this morning in Fayetteville. A guy was on the Cape Fear River and needed some assistance (forgot what the original call came in as) Pretty strange huh????

ENGINE - 02/28/10 - 19:18

did the person not have a pfd on? how are you stranded needing rescue in something as small as the neuse around here? float to the bank and walk back to get your boat.

boater - 02/28/10 - 19:58

Boater: The Corps of Engineers is letting a lot of water out of Falls Lake right now. When they do that, it causes the river below the dam to flow extremely fast and to rise higher than normal. There is no way that the guy that was in the tree could have swam to the shore because the water was just too fast and too cold.

marcus - 02/28/10 - 20:18

Please educate those who have no idea; is it common practice to send a "rescuer" to the victim without a tag line or water rescue helmet? Those that were there, please enlighten us.

H2OawrnessOnly - 02/28/10 - 20:50

I am not a fan of the blogs, but I will come forward on this one. Twas I that stole, well commandeered a canoe kayak boat. Use my bad call as a lesson. Not a good idea. The plan was not to "Rescue" the victim, but to simply "assess" the situation and the victim's medical condition for the Rescue Boat. At the moment the call made seemed a good one. Make no mistake, I am not above admitting IT WAS NOT. Lessons learned (I hope all will learn these lessons from this not so good situation)

- Though the water may seem calm but elevated in some areas, it may be moving faster in other areas. This should be taken into account.
- From the information and the perceived situation, the decision to go recon the victim from the water, I made. Lesson point being, no matter what the perceived situation may be, the reality may be different. Always plan for it to be different. Have a back up.

I will now once again "retire" from the blog as I am not a fan. I just felt I could admit my bad call in the hopes that someone else may learn from it. Stay safe guys. and other than my bad idea, a great job was done by all. The guy got rescued, his boat was not so lucky, but everyone went home.

-JG

Graney ([Email](#)) - 02/28/10 - 22:14

From the pictures only, and not pointing fingers, but for learning purposes:

the type of PFD that the Falls FD firefighter had on does not facilitate a tag line. You can see the cow-tails on the RFD rescuers PFD's that are meant for attaching a tag-line to, and allows the rescuer to release themselves from the tag-line if needed.

And yes, they should have had at the minimum a water rescue helmet on, just remember not a fire helmet.

Typically the best thing to do at an awareness level is to provide downstream safeties that have throw bags in place in case the victim comes free from the tree.

In addition everybody who is within 10 feet of the water should also have a PFD and helmet on. Actually getting in the water is the last resort on water (especially swift water) incidents.

As with confined space incidents would-be rescuers often become part of the incident, and the proper equipment and training are critical to ensure that does not happen and that everybody goes home safe.

Glad to see that some of the training that was conducted over the past two months by members of NC-TF8 got put to use and the end result was positive.

CFP 7021 - 02/28/10 - 22:25

Nothin' like an early morning on the lake in brisk February...good job guys!

Silver - 02/28/10 - 23:14

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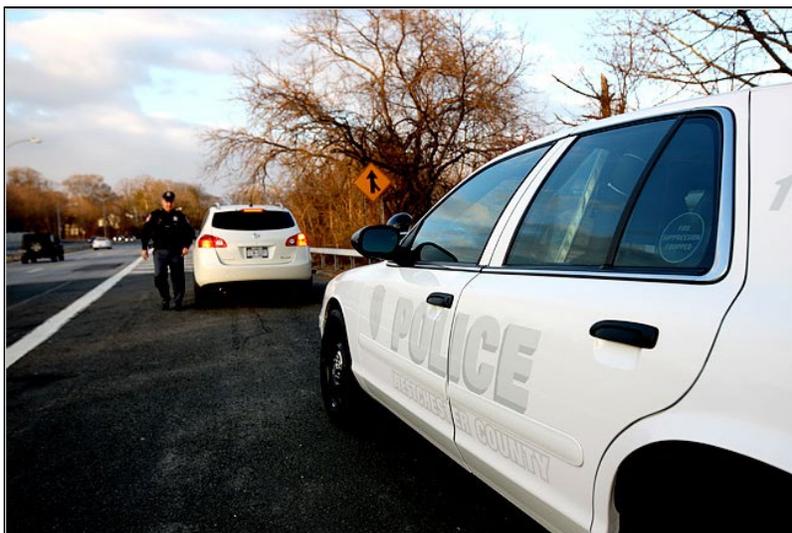
What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?

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

Ghost Police Car

03/01/10 94 W, 1 I - + 8 - 2

Yesterday's *New York Times* reported on an innovative approach to patrol car lettering in Westchester County, NY. Check out this 2009 Crown Victoria that's not quite unmarked. The decals are white and colorless. Why the near-invisible markings? Better concealment than regular markings, but not entirely unmarked and thus won't spook drivers who might think that a fake police officer is pulling them over. Guess that's a real concern for law enforcement these days, citizen worries of imposters? Anyway, it's a nifty concept. [Read the story.](#)



James Estrin/New York Times photo

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Wake County Justice Center And Lack of Controversy Therein

03/01/10 97 W - + 2 - 5

Today's *News & Observer* has an interesting article on the Wake County Justice Center and the lack of controversy toward its completion when compared to the city's struggling Public Safety Center project. What happened? The county spent over a decade designing and justifying the project, as well as a financing plan for same. The Great Recession then brought very low bids, and the whole things got the green light before the economy tanked. And with no property tax increase. [Read the story.](#)

[Missing photo]
Wake County photo

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New Hanover Deputies Save Five From Burning Apartments

03/01/10 74 W - + 3 - 6

And while we're finishing our morning news review, FireNews reports on an apartment fire in northern New Hanover County on Saturday morning that was spotted by a Sheriff's unit. Upon arrival, they were told that a family with a small child was inside one of the units. They kicked down the doors to the apartment, and got the family out of their beds. [Read the story.](#)

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Gaylord and Meeker on Public Safety Center

03/01/10 109 W - + 6 - 2

Mrs. Blogger caught this one in the *Midtown Raleigh News* that's published by the *News & Observer* on Wednesdays. (She reads same on Saturday over coffee.) These are pros and cons of the Public Safety Center project, as presented by Mayor Charles Meeker and City Councilman Bonner Gaylord. The Mayor's comments are remarks from his recent State of the City address. Mr. Gaylord's comments are abridged remarks from the last City Council meeting. Maybe apples to oranges, but still worth reading.

[Meeker: The Public Safety Center is Vital; Raleigh Needs it Now.](#)

[Gaylord: The Public Safety Center is Ill-Conceived, Too Costly.](#)

Sounds like you guys are not going to get your fancy building after all. Who are the private showers for anyways?

Uh-Oh - 03/02/10 - 15:18

not that i care one way or another, but its going to cost 3 times as much when they do it later.

gen3fire - 03/02/10 - 20:02

Now is a GREAT time for capital construction. Not so great for approving such work.

Legeros - 03/02/10 - 20:05

Yeah it'll cost 3 times as much when they do it later, IF they keep the current rather ostentatious design. I believe the point of Mr. Gaylord's remarks is that there should be new facilities but not of the current plans.

Joey - 03/02/10 - 20:36

why spend enormous amounts of money on a skyscraper for emergency operations, when the police do need a new headquarters, the fire department is supposed to be building station 29, and 12. stations 14, 6, and 3 need replacing to better help the communities they serve. ladder 9 needs to be ordered, the police need new substations. why not spend on these projects, and then find a suitable one story design for communications, and public safety support staff and command functions.

charlie ([Email](#)) - 03/03/10 - 14:23

Ladder 9 ordered? It needs to be opened, not ordered. We've got a rig for it, just need the company to be established. And I agree, they can focus on those projects you listed and we'd be better off.

Silver - 03/03/10 - 14:42

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Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Blocking the Big Road

03/01/10 60 W, 1 I - + 7 - 2

Here's an aerial view of Western Wake and Cary fire department units executing excellent blocking on I-40 this morning. Six people were injured in four or maybe five accidents within three miles of each other. Outside the frame is Cary Ladder 1, also blocking traffic. [Read the story and see more photos from WRAL.](#)



WRAL photo

Awesome blocking pic, and way to use the two engines to "direct" traffic.

Silver - 03/02/10 - 00:36

I wish this image had CFD L-1 in it. It was positioned behind WWP196 and took the shoulder and the #1 lane. IMAF was a very big help as well providing our early warning, as if the traffic backed up to US-1 wasn't enough!

shevais - 03/02/10 - 01:09

Shev, this whole area has come a looonnnggg way when it comes to roadway safety.

Silver - 03/02/10 - 01:13

Let me stir my own pot on this one. Twice in recent postings I have praised or facilitated praise of blocking by fire apparatus. As the above example shows, the rigs are indeed providing crash protection to the crews positioned past them. But what about protection for the driver-operator, for pump operation? Thus, perhaps the most-excellent blocking is nose-in versus nose-out?

Legeros - 03/02/10 - 09:32

Mike you have a very valid point. I prefer the nose-in towards the shoulder, with the wheels turned away from the incident scene, in order to protect the engineer. It all depends on how the situation presents itself and your type of pump panel. Just my two cents. Did you guys have the road entirely shut down while extriction was being performed?(The above picture was obviously after everything had stabilized.) I personally like to shut things down for the best protection of our folks. If so, it doesn't matter how the truck was positioned, everyone should

be stopped... Looks like everything went very well at this call- good job WWFR and CFD.

Bob P. - 03/02/10 - 10:03

Bob, there was a safety line pulled (1 3/4") from CFD E-1, the pump operator did not remain on the panel side of the truck once it was stretched and charged. There were also multiple IMAP and SHP units on scene assisting with traffic control. During the extrication (15 minutes) at one point the entire highway in both directions was shut down (for landing the aeromedical helo). For the most part the #4 lane was open throughout the incident. I don't think any of our folks in the hot zone were in the least bit worried about any rouge car coming towards us (as we were on the shoulder with an 18 wheeler, 2 pumpers and a Ladder blocking for us. Traffic was at a crawl and there was no real threat of any kind of high speed or out of control driver (as our work zone had been set and the congestion had done most of the work for us).

I agree that if you are pumping a fire then the first due should protect the panel for the engineer. One huge reason that I'm a fan of top mount pumps for any rig that will be responding to high speed roadways. I would say as this situation dictated the placement was spot on. Great comments for facilitating discussion, and learning. and I agree a great job was done by all on all the incidents that went happened on that stretch of road yesterday morning!

shevais - 03/02/10 - 11:41

What are the challenges of parking nose-right upon arrival? I'm guessing driver's defer to nose-left because sight lines are better. They can see right there, right out their window. Does it add much time/effort for nose-right roadway positioning? What are the downsides to always pulling nose-right?

Legeros - 03/02/10 - 13:29

It depends on where the incident is located on the roadway, if this incident would have been in the #4 lane and in the median, then the rigs would have blocked to the right, versus blocking to the left as shown. You want to block to "direct" traffic away from the incident scene, and to try to provide a barrier for responders. If you are blocking to the right on this incident and a car hits you it slides right into the hot zone, which is not good. With a block to the left you slide into the open lanes.

shevais - 03/02/10 - 13:33

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Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - Benson Officials < Blocking the Big Road... > Raleigh Wake 911 Cent... Battle Over Town's First Fire Engine

Benson Officials Battle Over Town's First Fire Engine

03/01/10 254 W, 1 I - + 7 - 3

Now let's turn to ~~Harnett~~ Johnston County, and the town of Benson, and a tug of war around an old fire engine. The apparatus in question is a horse-drawn, gas-powered pumper that dates to 1907. The first fire engine for the town, in fact. About 20 years ago, the fire department no longer had space to store the apparatus. Former Benson Commission Nathan Blackmon offered to store the thing in his business on Wall Street. That was Blackmon's Auto Sales and the showroom therein.

Cut to present day, and the town wants the thing back. [As this WRAL story reports](#), the current Benson Commissioners have tried several times to regain possession. They want the thing displayed at the Benson Museum of Local History, when it reopens later this year after renovations. Mr. Blackmon, however, indicated that *he* wanted to be the person that put the fire engine in the museum. He's since changed his mind, the story reports. And he has no further comment, per his attorney's advice.

The article adds that some work was done on the old engine in 2004. Firefighters raised money for new wheels, which Blackmon allowed to be placed on the apparatus. What happens next? Both sides indicate that the matter will be settled in court. Here's hoping that the issue resolves itself with minimal fuss and less expense. Let the engine live where it'll be both cared for and appreciated by the community that it once served. The museum.



WRAL photo

Next question, how long was the engine in service? Sanborn Maps from 1918 list the fire department as consisting of ten men with no horses, two hand-drawn hose reels, one hand-drawn pump, and 1,000 feet of 2 1/2-inch hose. Fire alarm was a bell. Water supply was "not good," listed as eight cisterns from which water was pumped for fire. Plus three private hydrants. Thus was the engine in service only about a decade, and supplanted by a higher capacity hand-pump, perhaps?

By 1925, the fire department was motorized, with ten men including a Chief and Asst. Chief, with a fire station, and a Ford truck equipped with hook and ladder, 1,500 feet of 2 1/2-inch hose, and a 30-gallon chemical tank. There were two fire alarm boxes in the business district, and they triggered an electric fire siren atop the bank building at the corner of Main and Railroad Streets. Water for the fire hoses was supplied by 65 double hydrants.

By 1935, the fire department— still with 10 men— had a Ford/Barton pumper, V8 engine, 500 GPM pump, 80 gallon tank, with 100 feet of 1/4-inch hose, and 1,500 feet of 2 1/2-inch hose. Plus 200 feet in reserve. Still two alarm boxes and an electric siren. Plus fire alarms also by telephone.

Legeros - 03/01/10 - 21:16

The News & Observer has since covered this story as well, <http://www.newsobserver.com/2010/03/04/3..>

Legeros - 03/04/10 - 08:41

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Raleigh Wake 911 Center's Craig Schulz Wins National Honor

03/01/10 151 W, 1 I - + 10 - 4

Craig Schulz, Technical Services Supervisor for the Raleigh Wake Emergency Communications Center (ECC) has been named Technician of the Year by the [E-9-1-1 Institute](#). The award recognizes the technology support staff within a 9-1-1 center whose efforts make available and maintain the critical technology systems necessary to answer, process and respond to emergency calls. Mr. Schulz was previously named the 2009 North Carolina National Emergency Number Association Support Person of the Year.

Mr. Schulz has been employed by the Raleigh-Wake Emergency Communications Center for 14 years, in four different capacities. As an experienced dispatcher and former rescue squad member, Mr. Schulz brings an operational understanding of emergency communications to his technical services role. While he has officially held the position of Technical Services supervisor for less than three years, he has performed that function for seven years. [Read entire press release.](#)



Congrats Craig! You deserve this honor for helping make RWECC one of the best Comm Centers around.
Thanks for all you do!

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 03/02/10 - 00:43

Congratulations, Craig! You deserve the award and all recognition received as a result of it. The public and our responders often recognize a telecommunicator's contribution to public safety, but really never think that there is someone behind the technology we use every day. Many never stop to think that as telecommunicators, we cannot do our job without Technical Services staff members giving us the uninterrupted ability to process and dispatch the calls for help. They know how they feel when the fire engine runs out of water or the defibrillator malfunctions. We have the same feeling when the CAD goes down, the Zetron stops working, and even worse when there is a problem with receiving 911 telephone calls from the public – the most basic link to help. As a 911 supervisor in a neighboring county, I am comforted knowing that 24 hours a day, I have someone I can call when the unthinkable critical failure does happen, and I work at ease knowing that our systems are maintained well and likely any problems encountered will be minor. People tell me all the time, "I don't have the patience to be a dispatcher" and "I couldn't stay calm under the pressure." I'm here to tell you, I say the same things about your job!!! I had rather manage a foot chase, working fire, enter a wanted person NCIC and deliver twins via EMD all at the same time than I had figure out why the computer or telephone has a glitch. Keep up the good work!

Jason Thompson ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 03/02/10 - 12:48

Canon Updates Software, Life Gets a Little Easier

03/02/10 385 W, 2 I - + 6 - 4

Canon has updated Digital Photo Professional (DPP), their photo processing software that many Canon DSLR users use. Enhancements include one whopping improvement: angle adjustment while in trimming mode. Insert applause and/or fanfare. Explanation follows. To download, visit the Canon web site, select your camera model, and follow the usual download instructions. Now, what the heck are we talking about?

When Mike shoots a mess of digital photos, he shoots them in Canon RAW. At home he opens a program that came with his Canon Digital Rebel XT camera. Called Digital Photo Professional, it allows him to process all those photos at once. In just a few seconds, he can adjust the exposure-- for example-- and make his photos look lighter or darker. Or add sharpening. Or quickly go picture by picture and perform cropping. And then save them all in a single step, instead image-by-image.

Before the upgrade, the one adjustment that couldn't be done was angle. See, sometimes Mike's photos are a little skewed. Sure, they looked fine when being taken, but when viewed on the computer, they could benefit from a wee bit of rotation. Such as these examples from earlier this year, click to enlarge:



And rotation meant the following:

- While using DPP...
- Save a high-resolution TIF version of the image, with "-edit" in the file name.¹
- Close DPP.
- Open PhotoShop Elements, another photo processing program.
- Perform rotation.
- Save image again.
- Close PhotoShop Elements.
- Open DPP.
- Resume processing.

As you can expect, this adds time to the whole process of processing. And if there are numerous images to be rotated, it adds a *lot* of time. Now, with the DPP update described above, the new workflow is insanely simpler:

- While using DPP...
- Perform rotation.
- Keep processing.

Another benefit is that color and sharpness levels can remain consistent across all images. See, saving to TIF can cause slight color or sharpness changes. And that's an annoying *additional* step, inside PhotoShop, getting those to match the others.

So all owners of Canon DLSR cameras, and who perform a lot of processing with Digital Photo Professional, download the new version and rejoice. It's a good day.

¹That's why the word "edit" appears in some of the names of my posted photos.

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Returning All Units to Service?

03/02/10 78 W - + 7 - 5

Discussion topic for the day, though this may be a short one. Listening to recent city and county structure fires, a familiar radio traffic presents itself. "All other units can return to service" says the Incident Commander. Then the question is asked, "can EMS units also return to service?" Is the second question redundant? Did command truly mean all units, or just all fire units? Or does it vary?

Speaking from personal experience, I have gone 'available' after the "all units" broadcast only to hear "EMS if you would, remain on scene a little bit longer". OK, not a problem. The other part, and this is hard to put into words without maybe pi**ing someone off, is that maybe some of the EMS folks don't understand the total ICS system (which is why you still hear "EMS Command" from time to time"), or that maybe some EMS folks don't fully understand fire ops and how that works. Those are just off the top of my head. Think about it, all fire personnel have a certain degree of understanding of EMS ops because all of the departments here in our county run EMS calls. A significant number of EMS personnel have no any fire background at all other than responding to the occasional building fire.

DJ - 03/02/10 - 11:14

To me, it should apply to everyone. Sort of redundant, because you'd think if EMS was needed they would have said "EMS we have a patient for you" or something similar.

Silver - 03/02/10 - 11:16

It should apply to all personnel. The same problem exists in other counties as well. If command says "All units" that should be taken at face value and truly include all units. Too often you hear EMS say "Can we clear also?" If the EMS units would return to service when "all units" is announced, the incident managers who perhaps didn't want EMS to clear will learn their lesson after they have to summons them back. It won't happen but a couple of times. Newer/weaker incident managers/commanders often do not remember that they are responsible for managing all aspects of the incident. Often command is established and the IC focuses solely on their respective discipline. Fire, Police and EMS personnel MUST come together on incidents and communicate with each other and make sure there are clear lines of authority to include operational groups/divisions/branches under the IC. One of the most common "problem areas" brought up at an incident critique is that Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement essentially run 3 different commands on the same scene and never communicate with each other. Many times they never meet face-to-face. The largest stakeholder in the incident should wear "THE VEST" and truly be in command while sitting/standing face-to-face with the other branch directors. Overall, Wake County agencies from all 3 disciplines do a great job communicating with each other and managing serious incidents. The Raleigh motel MCI is a perfect example of incident management at its best – one competent incident commander who very clearly and effectively manages all aspects of an incident.

JT ([Email](#)) - 03/02/10 - 12:05

You're right, it only has to happen a couple of times. However, in defense of some of the ICs out there, whenever a fire unit checks on scene, most of the time I hear them. Over a period of time, a lot of my EMS brethren have come to rely solely on 'pushing the button'. That's OK for the single unit response, I suppose (call me old fashioned but I do like to hear it). But any time we are responding to a call with a TAC channel (since that indicates at least one other unit is responding with you) I like to announce my actions- "EMS 4-1 on TAC37", "EMS 1-2-2 on location", etc. Who knows, maybe someone's paying attention.

And yes, making contact with the IC, face-to-face, to say "we're here" is a must. Of course, you do have to get out of the ambulance for that.

DJ - 03/02/10 - 12:15

Dale you are right on! Many of our own EMS people never use the radio anymore – and even worse aren't proficient in it when they do need to. Verbalizing your response, arrival, and acknowledgement of updated information is essential. Even moreso, we have to get our EMS people to go to the Tac channel!

JT ([Email](#)) - 03/02/10 - 12:52

Sometimes EMS gets to tact channel and can't get a word in edge wise. Responded to a MVC and because of all the fire trucks, chiefs and stations talking we can't get on the radio.

GE - 03/02/10 - 14:15

GE: You are correct. However, almost everytime that EMS goes to a structure fire, they spend more time talking about where to park on the assigned TG while the firefighters are trying to communicate and get the upper hand on the fire. Anytime a working fire/major working fire is declared, EMS should probably switch back to dispatch and get another TG for EMS operations and stick the Dist Chief with the overall commander so that there can be efficient incident management. All that being said, frivolous radio traffic is something that we all need to work on.

marcus - 03/02/10 - 19:15

Marcus, You are correct. Radio traffic can get out of hand on both sides. I think as a group EMS does try to get off the main tac channel as soon as possible. However, there are some who can't treat a patient, or put out a fire because they are too busy talking on the radio. Be Safe!!

GE - 03/02/10 - 20:14

Well GE, I will definitely have to agree with you on your last post.

Marcus - 03/03/10 - 05:11

Well DJ and JT, you guys have pretty much summed up my thoughts. I will add that there seems to be a common problem of balancing radio traffic. Those who need to announce their status usually don't so the IC doesn't know they are there or what they are doing; and then, the ones who need to minimize their radio traffic don't know what information/status change is relevant. JT you nailed it when you said that IC's will learn their lesson when they say, "Cancel all units not on the scene" then EMS should verbalize that they are clear. If the IC didn't mean for them to clear, then lesson learned. On the other hand, those who are in an IC role should be thinking BEFORE they change the "status" of the call and ask themselves, "Who is coming, who do I need, who can I cancel?" If you need EMS then simply "cancel all fire units not on the scene" and even throw in a "have EMS proceed" just for those EMS folks who wouldn't understand the word FIRE and ask, "do you still need EMS?". If everyone would just take a deep breath, think for a second and then speak on the radio the whole system would sound and operate much better.

BW - 03/03/10 - 07:42

whatever

anti-marcus - 03/05/10 - 15:26

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Durham Firefighter Dies in Tree Trimming Accident, Updated

03/04/10 127 W, 1 I - + 9 - 2

Firefighter Bradley Franklin Roberts, 26, died Tuesday, March 2, after falling from a tree, while cutting limbs for a tree service. The accident occurred in the 1100 block of Woodburn Drive. He was transported to Duke University Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Roberts joined the Durham Fire Department on March 7, 2005, and was assigned to Station 1. Sources: [WRAL](#), [WTVD](#), [Durham Herald-Sun](#).

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Clements Funeral Service. Visitation is today, Thursday, March 4, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Clements Funeral Service, [1105 Broad Street](#), Durham. The funeral is Friday, March 5, at 11:00 a.m., at New Horizons Church, [100 Horizon Place](#), Durham. [Read his obituary](#). Note that an incorrect funeral date is listed at the top of the obituary web page.



Condolences for a fallen Brother.

"My Brother has fallen, no, I dont know his name. Have not the same parents, still family all the same. He lives in this town, I live in another, it doesnt really matter `cause this man is my Brother"

For this Brother, his family and the Bull City's Bravest. Rest in Peace Bro.

Oak Town Truckie - 03/02/10 - 21:13

rest in peace, MR. Roberts. you were a hero to the city of Durham and will be missed by all. to the family, and his fellowfire fighters, my thoughts and prayers are with you.

charlie - 03/02/10 - 23:31

Thinkin about and praying for my fellow firefighters in durham thinkin about you here in New Bern

nbfrvollie - 03/03/10 - 08:26

I met Brad last week when I showed up at Engine 1 to ask some questions about an ad I was writing. Brad was outgoing, charismatic, adorable and full of life. I am so incredibly sad to find out about this accident. It's amazing how someone can have a lasting effect on you, even after knowing them for just 30 minutes. My heart goes out to his friends and family.

Jen ([Email](#)) - 03/03/10 - 13:42

Thinking about you guys during this sad time; Jeff, K.W., George and the rest of his DFD family, and the entire Roberts family as well.

Silver - 03/03/10 - 14:19

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Raleigh Fire Department Office Space - The History

03/02/10 352 W - + 7 - 5

Today's an appropriate day to discuss office space for fire and police in the Capitol City. Where were the offices of the Raleigh Fire Department before their present location on Martin Street? Let's take a trip back in time, as Mr. Blogger dones his Historian hat. Here's what we've found so far, and including the station locations of Battalion Chiefs.

Fire Chief / Fire Administration

- 1912-1941 - Station 1, Morgan Street
- 1941-1953 - Station 1, Salisbury Street
- 1953-1982 - Station 1, Dawson Street
- 1982-1984 - Keeter Training Center
- 1984-1991 - Municipal Building
- 1991-1994 - Professional Building
- 1994-present - Dillon Building

Asst. Chief of Operations

- 1971-1984 - Station 1, downstairs*
- 1984-1987 - Municipal Building (?)
- 1987-2010 - Station 1, upstairs
- 2010-present - Dillon Building

* Asst. Chief of Operations position created in 1971.

Fire Marshal / Asst. Chief of Fire Prevention

- 1971-1991 - Station 1, upstairs*
- 1991-1994 - Professional Building
- 1994-present - Dillon Building

*Fire Prevention Bureau created in 1949. Housed at Station 1, both Salisbury and Dawson street locations. Fire Marshall / Asst. Chief of Fire Prevention position created in 1971.

Asst. Chief of Services*

- 1971-19__ - Station 1, downstairs (?)
- 19__-1984 - Station 1, alarm house
- 1984-1987 - Municipal Building (?)
- 1987-2004 - Station 8, basement
- 2004-present - Support Services Center

* Asst. Chief of Services position created in 1971.

Asst. Chief of Training

- 2007-2010 - Keeter Training Center*
- 2010-present - Dillon Building

*Asst. Chief of Training position created in 2007. Prior training chiefs and leaders located at Keeter Training Center since its construction in 1982. Earlier office locations TBD.

Battalion Chief/Division Chief*

- 1992-2001 - Station 1 , Car 5
- 2001-2005 - Station 9, Car 5
- 2005-2009 - Station 8, Car 5
- 2009-present - Station 8, Car 10

*Position renamed Division Chief in 2004.

District Chief/Battalion Chief*

Downtown / West

- 1971-1983 - Station 1, Car 5
- 1983-2004 - Station 1, Car 52
- 2004-present - Station 8, Battalion 3

North / West

- 1971-1975 - Station 4, Car 6
- 1976-1983 - Station 6, Car 6
- 1983-1998 - Station 6, Car 53
- 1998-2001 - Station 14, Car 53
- 2001-2004 - Station 17, Car 53
- 2004-2009 - Station 17, Battalion 4
- 2009-present - Station 23 - Battalion 4

North

- 1977-1978 - Station 4, Car 4
- 1978-1983 - Station 9, Car 4
- 1983-2001 - Station 9, Car 51
- 2001-2004 - Station 15, Car 51
- 2004-present - Station 15, Battalion 1

East

- 2004-present - Station 12, Battalion 2

*Position renamed Battalion Chief in 2004.

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Raleigh Halts Work on Public Safety Center

03/03/10 167 W - + 6 - 4

That's today's *News & Observer* headline about yesterday's City Council four-to-four vote that's halted work on the proposed \$205 million Clarence E. Lightner Public Safety Center. Five years of planning, with the first opposition in December, when the City Manager proposed a payment plan that would raise property taxes.

How much has been spent so far? \$22 million, on design plans and the purchase and renovation of two buildings for temporary police relocation. Can the project be saved? The Mayor sees three possible scenarios: payment without a tax increase, one council member changes their mind, or a new council advocates the project. That last one's at least two years away.

What happens to the impacted city departments? Police are moving forward with their plans to vacate Central Police Station. They'll be moved by the end of the month, and relocated to interim offices in a new building on Six Forks Road and a district police office on Cabarrus Street.

[Read the article.](#)

My thanks to our wonderful city council. What could the fire and police dept. have done with the \$22 million dollars thrown away on this project? Stations, personnel, equipment, training-our pay and benefits? Just goes to show how political the process is-and how little the dept. really means to them. Ignorance based on perceptions-however incorrect, or just for political points-all the same. So lets start over and see how much more money we can throw away-and while doing so keep harping on how bad things are so we can cut the departmental budgets and increase the employee costs. Sounds like business as usual to me...

Goose - 03/03/10 - 14:27

Good points Goose, what a waste of damn money, just like R-Tap/ERP or whatever it's called.

Silver - 03/03/10 - 14:44

There were so many things wrong with the design I am very surprised it got so close to being constructed. One example is having the ECC on the top floor. They had to reinforce the actual structure and provide redundant utilities and such. If you add weight and/or complexity to the top floor of a large building everything below it has to be made stronger. EVERY single beam and column now has to support a much larger load, dramatically increasing the cost of the structure. This is why most large buildings have penthouses or large offices on the top floors of buildings.

Another thing, why does everyone have to be in the same building. Does RPD really need to be in the same building as RFD, Wake EMS and Wake EM? Do you really think it will improve the end service provided to the community? Should the land be used for another development, one that will pay taxes and provide other jobs, there will be more money flowing into public safety (at least theoretically). Pick you battles. I feel like whoever mentioned the station improvements and new construction that someone just mentioned in the other were spot on.

Joey - 03/03/10 - 16:37

It would have passed if Wake Med had put a free of charge clinich on the bottom floor.

Trust me, it would have worked. No politician would have voted no. It would have been career suicide to have done that.

It could be a very minor BLS facility with the ability to do very basic level care. Much the same as an ambulance has one stretcher, it could have one bed and staffed with one Physician and two nurses and one office clerk. Open 7 days a week until 11.00pm.

This facility works. I know...we have it my city and it works wonders.

Private - 03/04/10 - 18:26

Rank Titles?

03/03/10 90 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

Another discussion topic for the day, this one suggested by a reader. Rank titles in the fire service. Do you address officers by their rank or name? Captain X or Chief Y. Do you function on a first-name basis? Is it case-by-case basis? The context for the suggested discussion is a back-page commentary by Fire Chief Brian A. Crawford in the February issue of [Fire Rescue Magazine](#). The entire issue can be read online. His perspective? Rank supports an effective command culture.



I think this is a good topic. I believe that especially in paid departments where you are an employee you should address your officer by rank. I think it mostly has to do with respect and gives both a sense of chain of command, appreciation and mutual respect. A lot of times, from my experience (let me qualify that), in volunteer departments there is generally a more laid back approach and people are more likely to use a first name basis; not because they don't respect the officer but because they are more likely to be used to the first name/friend approach. Is this right or wrong? I don't know...you could argue either side.

Here is where I think titles/ranks are mis-used. I think that officers who step into a role and demand that people refer to them by their title are in the wrong. Yes, I agree that they should be referred to by title, but give a "grace period" for the rank transition; a time for everyone to get used to saying captain instead of Lt. or Chief instead of captain. The role of the subordinate should be to respect the rank and use it as much as possible, realizing why they are using the rank title and not just because that's what they should do. The rank of the officer should be to... here we go opening the can of worms...earn the respect or continue to lead by example to remind everyone that the title is for a reason. For the most part, people are in positions because of what they know and/or their experience and because someone wiser appointed them to that position to lead and do a good job. Now, I know it doesn't always work like that. There are people put in positions that aren't qualified, etc but I don't think that is the "norm". We should respect that and if they haven't earned it, they will or should at least have a realization that everytime someone calls them by rank, they really don't deserve it.

A few examples of where I am coming from and like I said, the exception hopefully. One local chief who was promoted from assistant chief a few years back, got way too much power with the title. It went to his head. He demands you call him chief to the point that if you call him by first name, especially in uniform, he will not acknowledge that you exist. He has hail to the chief as his ringtone on his phone and really has let people down when it comes to upholding the title of chief. Yes, he is a paid chief. The next example is a Captain who always refers to herself as Captain and you can tell gets upset when people don't call her captain, even by simple error. Finally, a captain who would probably prefer a first name basis but all his guys/gals call him captain because he earns and gives the respect due daily. He leads by example, stands up for his crew, could ask for anything from his crew and get it without complaint and is an overall great person. Two opposite ends of the spectrum... maybe some of you can relate.

rookie - 03/03/10 - 09:42

to add...how do you address a fire marshall/inspector/investigator and titles such as Coordinators and training officers?

rookie - 03/03/10 - 10:48

Good topic Mike. Well, as usual I probably will have a little bit of a different view on this. I respect the guys that choose to get promoted and become a company officer. Guys that I've come through with (and some after me) are progressing up to the Captain rank, and I'm very happy for them. If I ever work with them, of course the rank and person will be respected 100%, most importantly on runs.

But, do I think it's a bad thing to talk to a company officer around the firehouse or whatever and use their first name? No. We're a close group, and when we're enjoying casual conversation around the firehouse, if I use your first name don't get your whitey tighties in a wad. It's not meant to show disrespect, at last check we're both adults. I know you're the boss. Your helmet says it, where you ride on the rig says it, sometimes your shirt says it. Trust me. there's no question. YOU ARE IN CHARGE!! Just know, it's not disrespect if I call you by your first name when we're kicked back. It's the fact that I called you by that name before on this job.

Now, if I've only ever known you as a Captain from when I first got on the job, then "Captain" or "Cap" (which I seem to use more) it is and will be. But, if you and I came through together and your name was Fred, then I might call you Fred sometimes. But, on a run, definitely address the boss by rank. On a fire scene, and it means life and death, I'll probably call you by your first name as it will more than likely get your attention faster.

Chief officers, well, they're a Chief and should be addressed as such on duty, no matter what. Kicked back off duty having a few beers, definitely go with what you're most comfortable.

In our department, Rook, all of our training officers are Captains or above, so the same applies from my point of view. One of our training officers, I've known since I was 16. Plus, he's not the uptight type about always addressing him by his rank. I give him even more respect because of that, and call him by his rank when in a large group and when the situation dictates.

Our Inspectors and Deputy Fire Marshals are a mixed group, some were line Captains at one time and others are civilians. Captains, definitely the same applies (as well as the Fire Marshal himself who is a Chief). As for the civilians, they're civilians, first name basis.

I know of a fairly new Captain that told me to call him by his first name around the firehouse because we've known each other for a while. That was very cool, and he earned even more respect because of the fact that he can separate "firefighter to boss" and "Jeff to _____". Just my take on things.....

Silver - 03/03/10 - 13:47

Around the station I don't care what I am called. If it is at the dinner table and you want me to pass the tea you don't have to say "Chief can you pass the tea". I once had someone tell me that if they call me by name around the station then they will do it on calls or in public. I think that most of the people are smart enough to know the difference between station and public life and will act accordingly. I am not one to get hung up on a title. If I call a station of mine to talk with an Officer I will ask for Lieutenant or Captain if their firefighter answers the phone.

Apex Batt Chief - 03/03/10 - 17:02

I agree with Silver. It's entirely situational as to what you call someone. I have people that I came up with, who are now various ranks. I sometimes call them by their rank, and sometimes their name - it's entirely situational.

When I was introduced to a crew at a Raleigh fire station (I will decline to name it at this particular time), I was told by the person introducing me that they were Capt. X, Lt. Y, and FFs Z and F. That person left, and I was then told by the Captain that, "My name is _____, and this is _____, _____, and _____. None of that Rank crap." I had so much more respect for them, and I was given the privilege of calling them by either their ranks or names or nicknames (which I have used since then).

On a scene, it's a different story. Most of the time, with Capt or Lt, I'll call them that. Chief, the same way. Firefighters, I might call by name or last name. EMS personnel are referred to by name. Law Enforcement Officers are referred to as "sir" no matter what.

Just my take on things. I have been at departments where they had policy in place where you had to use rank references all the time. From what I saw, they were not a happy place to work. If you're going to regulate what people call each other on the job, what else will you regulate?

CJS (Email) - 03/03/10 - 17:10

Well said Silver...I always look to your comments for insight!

rookie - 03/04/10 - 08:39

Hahaha, easy rook', you just opened up the flood gates and awakened the Silver-bashers!!! Hahaha, thanks though; thing about me is, no matter if I have a keyboard in front of me, or a person, this is how I feel and don't mind sharing my take. Sometimes it's harsh reality, and like they say, "truth hurts". One thing I promise you don't have to worry about from me; "hey bud"-ing you to death, then talking trash as soon as you turn your back.

Stay safe!!

Silver - 03/04/10 - 13:54

Silver, you have a Fan Club!!! LOL

gen3fire - 03/04/10 - 19:42

You should see the decoder rings you get as members, LOL.

Legeros - 03/04/10 - 19:51

Now Mike, would this be "razzing or hazing" LOL :)

gen3fire - 03/04/10 - 20:16

Whaaaaaa!!! My feelings are hurt now, I deserve an apology. Hahahaha, kidding, but unfortunately this is the type of nation we have become, a nation of wussies and everyone gets offended.

I was so pissed to learn that when my nephew's soccer team won their league, everyone in the league gets a trophy because "you're all winners". With this mentality, we're really setting ourselves up for failure. It's called losing, cry a little and get over it and try harder next year. Toughen up kid, it's called life...

Silver - 03/04/10 - 20:42

Silver is my hero. Thanks for the last comment

Apex Batt Chief - 03/05/10 - 18:29

Respect should be achieved by virtue of your actions, but in our culture it's also "awarded" by rank (we'll agree and disagree on this one). Regardless, we will all agree title really means nothing in the grand scheme. In my case, I really don't care what I am called. I am very secure in my knowledge, skills, and capabilities in the fire service, so... so what!! Hey, think about this perspective... and don't forget, always be mindful of how YOU are defined and how YOU define yourself. Perception is (at least in this case) "reputation." Also, very insightful comments Jeff. Oh sorry, I meant to say "Senior Firefighter Silver" – Hahaha!

A.C. Rich - 03/06/10 - 09:02

Thanks Scoot', you're mine too.

@ A.C.; Hahahaha!!!! I'll let it slide this time....

Silver - 03/06/10 - 12:17

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Razzing vs. Hazing - Survey Still Open

03/03/10 84 W - + 5 - 5

The survey's still open that follows last week's [discussion on hazing](#). Thirty examples of behaviors, which you can classify as razzing, hazing, not sure, or neither. Survey closes on Saturday morning. Some notes on the demographics so far:

- 58 respondents to date
- 16 career, 12 volunteer, 27 both career and volunteer, and 3 neither
- 6 aged 18-24, 14 aged 24-29, 27 aged 30-39, 9 aged 40-49, and 2 aged 50+
- 56 men, 2 women
- 55 white, 1 hispanic/latino
- Most with college courses or degrees
- Most without military experience

[Take the quiz.](#)

Name: (real name preferred)
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Remember personal info?

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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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

My Photography Workflow

03/03/10 621 W, 1 I - + 7 - 3

Step 1 - Transfer Files

- Insert memory card in media reader.
- Open corresponding drive letter.
- Click **Search**.
- Enter **CR2** as file name criteria, for Canon Raw file format.
- Perform search.
- Select all results.
- Drag and drop into local file folder. (Why use search? Because my Canon DSLR stores images in separate folders, in lots of 100. This method moves them from multiple folders into a single location, and in a single step.)
- Files transferred.



Step 2 - Cull Photos

- Open local file folder.
- Use **Irfanview**, an image reader, to view first image.
- Compare with duplicate images as needed. (e.g., go back and forth between repeats of the same shot, picking the best of the two, three, or four.)
- Delete unwanted images.
- Repeat with remaining images.

Step 3 - Rename Files

- Open **Flash Renamer**, a file utility.
- Rename all images with file names containing the time created. This orders them by when they were shot, and even if two cameras are used.
- Rename all images again with sequence file names. My convention is date + agency name + street name + image number + initials. Example: 2010-03-03-rfd-main-st-01-mjl. (Why such long file names? So I can easily search on dates, agencies, and street names to find files. My initials are added to help identify one of my photos as one of mine.)

Step 4 - Process Files

- Open **Digital Photo Professional** (DPP), a processing program included with my Canon Digital Rebel XT cameras. (Why don't I use PhotoShop, or another tool? Well, this is the one that I've learned to use, and am exceeding familiar with.)
- Select all images.
- Adjust **Contrast**, **Color Saturation**, **Sharpness**, and **Picture Mode** to personal preferences. (In order, +2, +2, 10, Faithful.)
- Open first image.
- Go picture-by-picture and adjust **Exposure** and **White Balance**, plus **Contrast** and **Color Saturation** again as needed. (If the pictures are taken outdoors and in sunshine, this step is very fast. If the pictures are taken indoors with flash and varying colors, this step takes forever.)
- Save everything.
- Open first image again.
- Go picture-by-picture and adjust cropping and angle as needed. (Lots of cropping is done, though usually just a bit of the frame. Aspect ratio is preserved. Angle adjustments are minimal, however.)
- Save everything again.

Step 5 - Prepare For Posting

- Create second folder.

- Use **DPP** to create low-resolution versions, JPEG format, 96 DPI, 800 pixels wide.
- Use **Irfanview** to review low-resolution images.
- Perform 90-degree loss-less rotation as needed on portrait-oriented images. (What the hell is loss-less rotation? Every time you save a JPEG file, the image loses a little bit of clarity. Irfanview lets you rotate and re-save JPEG images, but without any loss of quality.)
- Repeat Step #4 for any images as needed.

Step 6 - Post Photos

- Create third folder, for local copy of future slideshow.
- Copy low-resolution images to folder.
- Use **Windows Picture Viewer** to review each image.
- Delete photos not intended or chosen for posting.
- Use **Microsoft Photo Editor** to blur facial features as needed. (This is relatively rarely done.)
- Use **TextPad** to edit the header and footer files, that will create the slideshow text.
- Use **JAAlbum** to create the slideshow. (This program generates all the individual "slide" files, thumbnails, etc.)
- Use **WS_FTP** to upload local copy of slideshow to web site.
- Use **Microsoft Expression** to edit local copy of photo site home page.
- Use **WS_FTP** to upload local copy of photo site home page.
- Use **FireFox** to test updated photo site home page, and new slideshow.
- Push away from the computer and take a break.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Holly Springs to Lose Wake County EMS Subsidy

03/04/10 160 W - + 8 - 1

Today's *News & Observer* reports that Holly Springs is losing its county subsidy for the salaries of three paramedics. The annual expenditure is \$177,850, which the county is asking the town to assume. Since 1998, Wake County EMS has provided a paramedic to ride a Holly Springs ambulance at cost to the town. Holly Springs had a rolling, annual agreement with the county since that time.

Revenue also figures into the equation. In 1998, the Holly Springs EMS unit generated about \$45,000. Today, the same revenue is \$326,929. Not surprisingly, the county wants a piece of the pie, to help cover its own cost in these times of shrinking budgets. Wake County EMS has presented the town with two options: the county pays all costs for a paramedic ambulance, and receives all revenue; or, Holly Springs reimburses the county for the salaries of the paramedics. Neither option changes the EMS deployment model, however. [Read the entire story.](#)

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Web Site: (optional)

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Training Center Shelters

03/05/10 48 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

Two shelters have been added at Keeter Center Training. The topside structure protects a pair of reserve pumpers, shown below. The second shelter was added on the lower level, on the USAR grounds and will cover shoring materials.



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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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PSHSB Public Safety Photo Project and Contest

03/05/10 80 W - + 7 - 5

From a reader, the FCC's [Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau](#) (PSHSB) is conducting a photo project and contest to collect and feature pictures of the public safety community on its website. They're particularly interested in using "action" photos of firefighters, police officers, and EMS personnel performing public safety duties. PSHSB will feature selected photos on its web site. [Read about the contest](#), and rules and conditions therein. Deadline is December 31!

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Firefighters

03/05/10 26 W, 1 I - + 6 - 5

[Preliminary photos posted](#) for this afternoon's major working fire on Arcadia Court. Photographer (moi) arrived after containment, alas.



Arrived after containment LOL what containment the Ground!!!

WTF - 03/05/10 - 22:29

Technically... it's contained at that point.

Also, in the grand long list of incident priorities... property conservation comes dead last... incident stabilization is first... and the ground is stable.

CJS ([Email](#)) - 03/06/10 - 08:29

CJS, Life safety is the first priority then incident stabilization then property conservation. Depending on the situation you may have to accomplish one to achieve the other.

Hopeful - 03/06/10 - 08:36

I have a quick question. Why do some RFD BC's have orange stripes and some have yellow?

Truckie ([Email](#)) - 03/06/10 - 14:49

The different colored reflective striping on Battalion Chief gear is simply due older versus newer. No other significance.

Legeros - 03/06/10 - 15:34

Hopeful, I did remember after I submitted this that Life Safety came first, and that my wording choice was poor. Thanks for the reminder. Even I can take my lick on it.

CJS ([Email](#)) - 03/06/10 - 17:25

Name: (real name
preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yesterday's Major Fire / Arcadian Court

03/06/10 271 W, 1 I - + 5 - 4

ThreeTwo alarms at [4903 Arcadian Court](#). Engine 19 arriving with heavy fire showing from the second story and roof in the rear of a two-story, wood-frame apartment building with 10,356 square-feet. Built 1985. Declared major working fire on arrival. Quickly spread across roof, with wind conditions contributing. Heavy smoke surrounding front of structure also obscured operations. Crews withdrawn and defensive attack started very soon. Battalion 1 with command. Ladder 2 plus Engine 15 deck gun deployed in front of structure; Ladder 5 deployed in rear of structure. Command post, medical monitoring and rehab on Arcadian Court. Staging on Wallingford Drive. Dispatched 3:12 p.m. Controlled at 4:16 p.m.

Five hydrants utilized, on Arcadian Court to Engine 19, on Wallingford Drive to Engine 21, on Pebble Beach Drive to Ladder 5, Tapers Drive to New Hope Engine 1, and fifth location TBD. First alarm: E19, E15, E11, L2, R1, B2, New Hope E1. Working fire: E27, C10, C20, A1. Second alarm: E21, E22, E28, L5, R2, B4. Third alarm (manpower): E9, L1. Car 2, Car 4, Car 71, New Hope Car 1 also on scene. Medical: EMS 16, EMS 2, EMS 10, EMS 11, EMS 121, D3, D2, M93, T1. Coverage included E14 at Station 19, E23 at Station 15, E13 at Station 9. **Others?** Overnight companies included E20, E24. No injuries. Eight units destroyed, seven families and 19 people displaced. Cause determined as accidental, from disposal of fireplace ashes on a back deck. Wind spread same and started fire. "A" shift working. **See pictures by Legeros**, who arrived 32 minutes later. Both [WRAL](#) and [WTVD](#) also posted aerial photos. The latter includes a couple dozen smoky shots early into the incident.



Corrections and clarifications sought, particularly on third alarm for manpower, which I definitely recall as requested on radio.

Legeros - 03/06/10 - 09:07

Yeah, 2-banger with some add'l special calls.

Silver - 03/08/10 - 00:32

just curious...what does "457" stand for on Capt. Duke's helmet shield?

rookie - 03/08/10 - 06:48

Old style helmet front, the Investigators don't have company specific helmet fronts, so they wear their old ones. "457" is his F.D. employee number.

Silver - 03/08/10 - 11:46

My son just moved in next door to this destroyed building. He heard crackling in the wall and smelled smoke. Someone was sent to check it out but said they found no problem with the electrical wiring. I'm not trusting that under the circumstances. There had to be a reason for the crackling sound and the smell of smoke. I'm afraid for him or anyone else to be living there. How sure are you about the cause of the fire next door?

Shirley - 06/23/10 - 07:36

Shirley, thanks for your note. For questions about this fire and its reported cause, as well as to provide any additional information, I'd recommend contacting the fire department itself. Their phone number is 919-996-6115. Other contact information is available on their web site, <http://www.raleighnc.gov/portal/server.p..>

Legeros - 06/23/10 - 08:08

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Caption This Photo / Millbrook Road Sinkhole

03/06/10 96 W, 1 I - + 5 - 5

Meanwhile yesterday afternoon, a city bus suffered a sagging butt on Millbrook Road, due to a sinkhole created by a water main break. As this [WRAL story reports](#), seven passengers and the driver were aboard when they started feeling that sinking feeling. Police detoured traffic around the site, between Auburn Road and Ivy Lane. Repairs were completed some time later. Unknown if the displaced passengers called disbelieving friends to tell of their hole problem, and were told "you're all wet." Thank you, and good night.



WRAL photo

"The wheels on the bus go down and down..."

Olson - 03/06/10 - 09:30

"Those darn N. Raleigh moles..."

A.C. Rich - 03/06/10 - 09:39

"Driver, I'll get off here. Thank you!"

Beach ([Email](#)) - 03/06/10 - 14:32

Looks like DOT needs to check for overweight ticket

Apex Batt Chief - 03/06/10 - 19:17

Hey what was that number to report pot holes again?

Rob Mitchell - 03/06/10 - 23:13

Interesting. I believe the true reason for this situation was my exwife sitting in the back of the bus. Only so much weight that road can take.

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 03/07/10 - 11:33

"Today's Bariatric Transport Service Proved that American's Are in Fact overweight..."

rookie - 03/07/10 - 13:18

Raleigh's CAT buses finally get into the Gangsta Lean.

Duda - 03/08/10 - 10:59

Holes in the budget just keep getting bigger and bigger...

Donaldson - 03/08/10 - 23:49

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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Razzing vs. Hazing - The Results

03/06/10 36 W - + 12 - 6

[Here are the results](#) on our suvey on hazing.

Here's the [original discussion](#).

Analysis and commentary at a later time.

Total of 104 responses, with 24 comments.

Thanks for participating.

Group hug.

Notes on the methodology. Same was created using SurveyMonkey, and with a month's service purchased. The free version required four separate forms, and was too unwieldy. Plus the results couldn't be cross-compared. The first seven respondents used the four forms; everyone else got the big, single form.

The 104 people who responded were drawn from (a.) blog readers, (b.) Facebook readers, or (c.) perhaps friends of the first two, with the survey forwarded to same. Do the results reflect an accurate cross-section of the local fire service? Perhaps.

They were mostly white males, over 30 years of age, with 10 or more years of firefighting experience, with college course experience or higher, and no military experience. Half were two-hatters, both career and volunteer.

Maybe we'll pontificate on race, gender, experience, and education at a later point. Lots to think about!

Legeros - 03/06/10 - 11:13

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Thoughts on the Survey

03/06/10 517 W - + 7 - 3

Where to begin, where to begin? Well, first and foremost, the hazing discussion and subsequent survey prompted a personal reaction. For several days, memories of my first few (and only few) years in the fire department flooded back. The looking glass brought retroactive understanding, both intellectual and emotional, about that formative period.

Career firefighter in Raleigh in 1989. Was I razzed? Some. Was I hazed? No. Was the station family challenging to understand and integrate into? You betcha. Yours Truly had zero awareness of the fire service back-end, and the subtle (and overt) nuances of the station family was a brave new world.

That's also a perspective seen in survey and blog comments. More people are entering the profession from outside occupations, noted one survey respondent. Does that make them less-suited for station life? Or maybe just a learning curve that's a little steeper?

Now let's apply that to the survey. What do the questions and answers look like to an outsider? For someone who wants to be a firefighter, they might be taken in stride. What about the rest of the world? What's a city manager, county official, newspaper editor, civic leader, or regular citizen to think, should they read those questions and comments?

Yet, in the confined space of a fire station, hard play happens. People pick. Bonds form. Families become.

Another issue is the law, which we haven't discussed. Which of those behaviors in our survey are illegal? As one comment notes, restrained and unwanted physical contact is assault. (And which about 90% of respondents labeled as hazing.) For those chiefs and/or human resources officers reading, what's your (or your department's) tolerance for illegal behavior? Is the aforementioned behavior grounds for demotion or dismissal?

Let's also step aside and acknowledge that behaviors were tougher in older days. As one blog reader recalled the experiences of his father and grandfather, battery acid in the shower, electric shocks from lamps, and greased fire poles are a fair step beyond the behaviors described in our survey. Should we adjust our tolerance accordingly, and permit some hard play because it's nonetheless less severe than older forms? Not sure about that.

Also, a survey respondent mentioned losing 200 years of tradition, if hazing and razzing aren't properly defined. Since I am a historian, I call foul on this one. Though I am aware of many 200+ year traditions in the fire service, I don't have a good historical sense of how new people were treated a couple centuries ago. Maybe it does stretch that far back, but I can't be sure.

So what's off-limits regarding razzing or hazing? Based on the survey, anything involving PPE or personal property is a big no-no. The former can result in injury or death. The latter can result in a@@@ whippings, as one blog commenter commented.

Several respondents said a "part of the job" survey category would have been useful. They are likely referring to the station duties questions, which were intentionally included as likely examples of neither hazing nor razzing. Most respondents agreed.

What else? More thoughts later.

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Caption This Photo / St. Baldrick's

03/06/10 47 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

A number of fire departments and firefighters trimmed their tops today for children's cancer at Napper Tandy's. Here's an optical illusion from eastern Wake County. Watch for more charitable fun at folk's expense. Large time had by all. Click to enlarge:



The harsh reality has finally set in for ol' sonny boy....so THIS is how my head will feel in 20 years? 

Silver - 03/06/10 - 23:47

...shots fired

J.Boggs - 03/08/10 - 10:18

Ex-cell-ent.....

Beach ([Email](#)) - 03/08/10 - 14:36

10!

Boogie - 03/08/10 - 16:17

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Morse Code?

03/06/10 45 W - + 8 - 5

What are those morse code-sounding beeps we've been hearing on Headquarters for the last week or two? Seems like they started after the CAD upgrade, though I am sure I have heard them before? Those in the know, please dash off an answer!

KII 313

lee - 03/07/10 - 00:48

KIQ-206

Silver - 03/07/10 - 01:09

Duh, so it's really that simple? The frequency call signs as morse code?

Legeros - 03/07/10 - 09:19

I'm not sure, I was just answering Lee!! I know Durham's FCC I.D. is encrypted, don't know if ours is the same.

Silver - 03/07/10 - 10:39

Yep. It is the FCC license. Still required on the VHF side while VIPER spits out it's own callsign on the 800Mhz side.

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 03/07/10 - 11:36

And I am guessing FCC regs require only daily transmission?

Legeros - 03/07/10 - 14:43

FCC requires it to go out once an hour, I believe... unless the call-sign of the station is spoken on a regular basis. This is why under old voice dispatching, the morse code was never heard... you always got, "Rescom/Raleigh Central/Headquarters... blah, blah, blah... WZX-555 KMCM-293/KIQ-206/KII-313."

CJS ([Email](#)) - 03/07/10 - 15:36

CJS has it correct. Just like for us Ham Radio Operators the requirement was an hourly CW or voice Callsign on VHF/UHF. Once Trunking came about a little thing called "Base Station Identifier" was put into place. In a Moto trunked system (such as VIPER), the FCC requires that only the lowest RF frequency channel that is not a control channel transmit a station identifier. To prevent the IDer from transmitting on top of someone's conversation, the system restricts voice traffic on the BSI channel unless no other channels (except more protected channels) are available. If you listen to a business LTR (Logic Trunked Radio) system you can hear each repeater ID in sequence. The IDs are still there, just in a little different format.

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 03/07/10 - 21:45

Very cool. Thanks for the insight.

Legeros - 03/07/10 - 21:51

Here in OKC on our systems both 400 and trunked 800 they go out as a data burst that isn't heard by anybody. It makes me wonder if they jacked up something on the computer control of your radio system. The CAD upgrade should have nothing to do with it at all. But then again our CAD and our radio computers are totally separate. Oh how I miss the old Motorola console with real live buttons. This computer control is nice most of the time but when it does give us fits it's a terror to track down. All our radio traffic in OKC goes up the turnpike to Tulsa to the master control and then back down to the slave here in OKC.

RAYMOND ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 03/08/10 - 11:36

@Raymond No, nothing is "jacked up" as far as the way VIPER is constructed. It operates in exactly the manner one would expect of an 800Mhz mixed mode analog/digital P16 3600 Baud Motorola system. It IDs via CW/Morse Code the way most Moto trunked systems do as I described earlier. Just depends on how the system is setup. Obviously the system in your area is configured differently but that does not make other systems such as VIPER "jacked up".

Hope this helps provide some insight into the different ways different trunked systems work!

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 03/08/10 - 23:05

Over the past few years there have been several changes to FCC regulations. Stations that are used primarily for paging/signalling are exempt from the ID requirement.

[RWECC] - 03/10/10 - 04:59

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.

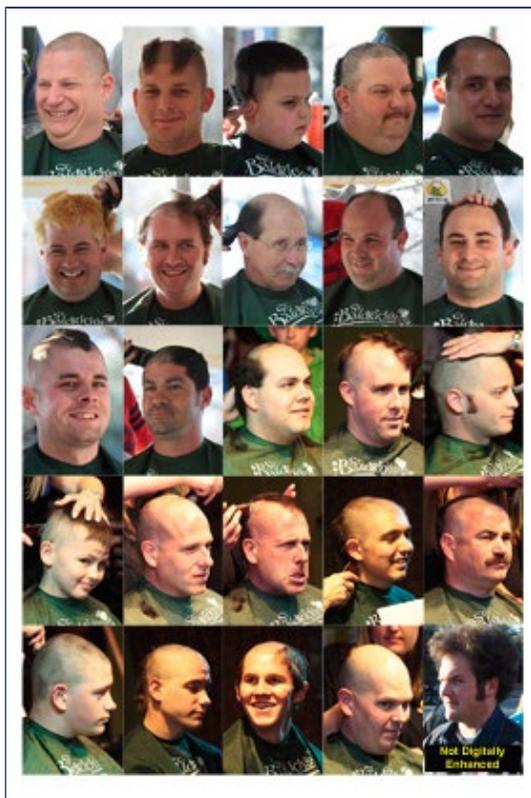
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

Heads on a Roll

03/07/10 62 W, 1 I - + 8 - 1

More fun with clippers at Napper Tandy's yesterday. Fathers and sons, fire and police, and great support from everyone. First and foremost the spouses! No cameras were harmed during the making of this montage. Read about the [St. Baldrick's Foundation](#). See a list of the [public safety teams](#). Click **once or twice** for super-size, super-scary version:



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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The Shorn Squads

03/07/10 54 W, 4 I - + 8 - 7

Here are some of the public safety teams that participated in head shaving for St. Baldrick's at Napper Tandy's yesterday. **Have a group photo to add?** Send and we'll add! Left to right, top to bottom: Firefighters for Kids, Garner FD, Durham Highway FD, Stony Hill FD. 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.

Rob Lowe! Snow White! Merv Griffin!

03/07/10 66 W - + 7 - 5

Here's your Oscar warm-up, the jaw-dropping opening to the 1989 Academy Awards ceremony. Like the proverbial train wreck, you don't dare turn away. As many may know, Mr. Blogger was once [Mr. Movie Reviewer](#). He "retired" from that vocation in 2001, after about 1,100 reviews posted on USENET and the web. Phew, there were some bad movies in that bunch.

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Maybe Some Drivers Really Don't Notice

03/07/10 58 W - + 8 - 7

[Statter911](#) surfaces this provoking video from [Firefighter Close Calls](#). Read Dave Statter's [commentary on same](#). Is it really possible that the driver didn't hear the horn and siren, nor see the large red object appearing closer in his rear view mirror? Or are simply seeing an [anal opening] in action?

What an IDIOT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

079 - 03/07/10 - 17:52

Pick your road in Wake County- Capital Blvd, Glenwood Ave, Kildaire Farm Rd, and many, many, many, more. They cannot be bothered with someone else's house fire, heart attack, or break-in in progress.

DJ - 03/07/10 - 19:14

Thank god this Department has done their apparatus maintenance. Look at the weather conditions they were facing. Geeez!

jetexas - 03/07/10 - 23:41

Good heads up by the apparatus operator.

Silver - 03/07/10 - 23:44

Was that in Cary? I swear I saw that same driver the other day. Oh, nevermind, everyone in Cary drives like that!!!!

He-he - 03/10/10 - 23:40

Hey, Hey!!!! I don't!!

Silver - 03/11/10 - 01:23

That's why Cary has the opticom system. People might not move for the lights and siren but when the light instantly goes green in their favor they move out of the way fast. Probably don't even wonder why the light changed so fast.

Joey - 03/11/10 - 09:04

I have actually caused a driver to react the same as the person in the video. Some people freeze and don't know how to react when an emergency vehicle comes barreling down on them. Just proof you never know how people will react. Some go left, some go right, and some try to outrun you.

HH - 03/11/10 - 15:50

happened today in knightdale...

Be CAREFUL with opticom. We also have opticom, and I ALWAYS check up, and still be prepared to stop. Your point about the light changing so fast should be thought provoking enough. How many civilian drivers do you trust to actually be paying attention while driving? It doesn't matter whether or not the light is green- what's the first thing the public thinks when they see a Emergency Vehicle vs. POV crash? Not to mention the potential of personal injury. How about when a second vehicle is following you without opticom (EMS). A lot to consider...

J.Boggs - 03/11/10 - 23:08

I got in trouble years ago as a Lieutenant (~1994) while responding to a HM call in Durham Hwy's area. While driving Hazmat-20 on Glenwood Ave. "10-39," I tried to "force" traffic at Lead Mine and Glenwood, citizen complained, C-1 called, Spank-spank. Yield is such a subjective word isn't it?

A.C. Rich - 03/15/10 - 10:57

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Recursive

03/07/10 34 W, 1 I - + 6 - 3

Photograph of photographer taking photograph of photographer. From yesterday's live burn with Falls and other fire departments. Click to see the original by Lee. Or [view the whole set](#).



Lee Wilson photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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This Afternoon's Woods Fire in Cary

03/08/10 178 W, 4 I - + 9 - 1

Ten acres of brush burned in Cary today, after an unattended fire at a homeless camp spread to surrounding woods north and west from Cary Town Boulevard and Trinity Road Extension. Reported around 3:15 p.m., the wind-fed flames spread in the direction of houses on Maynard Road, and apartments on Village Greenway. Crews were deployed on three (four?) sides, and contained the blaze within about an hour. All personnel were subsequently sent to rehab, with mutual aid engines called to the scene for relief.

Cary Battalion 2 was command on Trinity Road Extension. Medical monitoring and rehab were at the same location, and two firefighters were transported with minor injuries. Staging was Cary Towne Boulevard. The Forest Service responded, and deployed a plow, along with back-burning. Units on scene included: Cary E1, E2, E4, L1 (riding reserve service truck?), T7, Brush 9, B1, B2; Western Wake P191; Swift Creek Brush_, Tanker 6, Morrisville P1, Fairview E1, two Forestry units and plow; EMS 51, EMS 55, EMS 4, EMS 8; District 5, Truck 1. Pictures by Legeros later. Click to enlarge:



Cary seems to use this reserve truck more often than most reserve trucks are used. Is there a reason? Does it carry any special equipment that is specific to certain incidents?

rookie - 03/09/10 - 06:46

WWFR T-198 also went to the scene for additional water and manpower relief.

WW - 03/09/10 - 09:00

Rook, it is one of the reserves for ladders and rescues. CFD's aerials were UL tested recently and were having some maintenance/repairs done over the past few weeks, therefore L-1 was riding a reserve. It has a lot of the same equipment that the ladder companies do, with the exception of the aerial, pump and hose.

SCFD B-4 btw.

CFP 7021 - 03/09/10 - 10:28

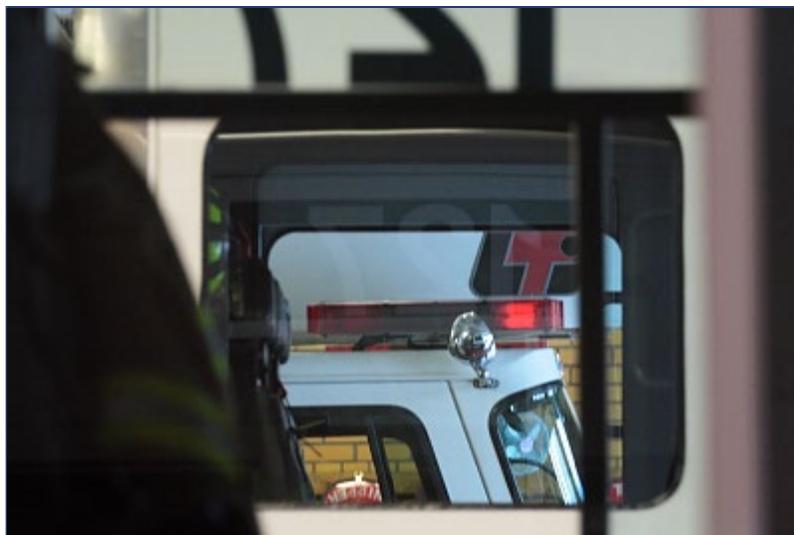
Chapel Hill runs reserve trucks almost every day. they are in service more then the front line trucks.

CHFD - 03/09/10 - 12:17

Reflections

03/09/10 16 W, 1 I - + 6 - 3

Engine, engine, ladder in late afternoon. Central Station in downtown 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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Havelock's New Quint

03/11/10 57 W - + 4 - 4

[FireNews finds this article](#) from the Havelock News about the town's new quint, an E-One aerial ladder that's temporarily stored at the main fire station until the new West Side Station opens in a couple more weeks. [Read the original article](#), which includes video footage.

[Missing photo]

Drew C. Wilson/Havelock News Photo

Good Luck With The E-One, hadn't had the greatest results with them. On the other hand I am glad to see another aerial truck/quint on the Crystal Coast. Not too many small departments that way have them. Does anyone know of the Volunteer Departments on the Coast operating Aerials? I know New Bern City does, Cherry Point Federal, Arapahoe (Pamlico Co.), now Havelock and I think there is several in Carteret County.

Chief - 03/13/10 - 02:46

You'd think a Chief would know how to spell Chief!

Webster - 03/13/10 - 10:43

Wildwood Fire Department (combo paid/vollie) in Morehead City has an E-One telesquirt quint. I also know Emerald Isle has an E-One ladder, not sure if it's a quint or not.

CJS ([Email](#)) - 03/13/10 - 14:17

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Responders Driven to Distraction

03/11/10 130 W - + 9 - 4

Yesterday's *New York Times* published the latest in their Driven to Distraction series on "high-speed multitasking," this time turning attention to police officers and paramedics. Some 75 percent of police cruisers have mobile terminals, they cite an analyst. And about 30 percent of ambulances are similarly equipped.

The article talks about pros and cons, laws and regulations, and new technologies. New Hampshire researchers, they note, have been developing hands-free technology for police cars. Drivers can operate radio, lights, siren, and even the on-board computer by voice commands! There are also systems that use digital video to automatically read license plates in view of the patrolling officer.

[Read the article](#) and discuss as desired. What are your perception of the dangers of "multitasking while responding?"

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Fire Commission Meeting Notice and Information, March 18

03/11/10 185 W - + 5 - 3

The Wake County Fire Commission holds its next meeting next week:

- Thursday, March 18, 2010
- 7:00 p.m.
- Wake County EMS Training Facility
- Commons Building, Lower Level, [4011 Carya Drive](#).

The condensed agenda. See full version in [document form](#):

- Regular Agenda
 - Fire Budget Committee
 - Consider Approval FY 10 Contingency Funds Distribution
 - Apparatus Committee
 - Consider Approval of Small Vehicle Policy Revision
- Information Agenda
 - Revised Fire Protection Agreement
 - Fire Tax Financial Report
 - Chair Report
 - Fire/Rescue Services Director Report
- Other Business
- Public Comments

Additional advanced information has also been provided. [See these documents](#) described below:

- Draft Minutes of the January 21, 2010, Regular Meeting
- Minutes from the March 9, 2010, Fire Budget Committee Meeting
 - The Budget Committee will present a recommended process for allocating FY10 contingency funds for Fire Commission consideration.
- Information from the Apparatus Committee
 - The Apparatus Committee will present a recommended change in the small vehicle replacement policy for Fire Commission consideration.
- Revised Fire Protection Agreement
 - The Contract Committee continues reviewing and updating the fire protection agreement. The attached draft agreement is provided for review and feedback.
- Financial Reports
 - Current financial reports are provided for review.

Is the Fire Protection Agreement document the contract that the county uses with all fire departments who answer calls in the county?? How is the contract enforced or can it be enforced? The county cant just stop providing fire department protection to taxpayers, so does the contract have teeth??

Question - 03/12/10 - 08:31

This is the document for providing service. More base standards have been added but the document avoids telling a department how to operate. That is left to the department in conjunction with other fire commission standards. The new document has added teeth. The question will then be if County Staff will investigate issues and bring them to the Commission. The big teeth will be withholding funding. Furthermore, it

has been discussed the need to have backup plans to provide the service.

Answer - 03/12/10 - 12:59

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Mystery Fence

03/11/10 24 W, 1 I - + 3 - 4

Where's this place? Hint, it's above ground. Second hint, you can get there from here.



Is that the one by the airport? By the Six Forks EMS station?

Adam - 03/11/10 - 22:26

City of Raleigh water treatment plant at Falls of Neuse and Raven Ridge?

Mike - 03/12/10 - 00:04

Mt.Herman Road at RDU across the street from EMS-123's station. Result of a MVC with F-frank.

That's it - 03/12/10 - 16:24

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Reality Check on Unintended Acceleration

03/11/10 90 W - + 6 - 5

Speaking of cars driving themselves, which we really weren't speaking about, but, hey, let's pretend we were, here's a nifty *New York Times* editorial by a psychology professor who makes a convincing case that unintended acceleration is a human problem instead of mechanical defect. Yup, it's exactly as you might suspect. People pressing the accelerator when they think they're pressing the brake. The car starts moving fast, they press the "brake" harder, and, zoom, there you go. [Read the perspective](#). It's good stuff.

"Moving Forward" (whether you want to or not, and at a break neck speed)

Donaldson - 03/11/10 - 23:08

Here's a thought- PUT IT IN NEUTRAL

J.Boggs - 03/11/10 - 23:10

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Raleigh Police Add Video Surveillance

03/12/10 98 W - + 7 - 0

That familiar fixture in bigger cities-- or at least in Baltimore, where Mr. Blogger visits each summer-- has come to the Capital City. As this morning's *News & Observer* reports, the Raleigh Police Department has added street-side video cameras to their tools to fighting crime. Three cameras are located on the east side, including one on North Tarboro Street, where three gunshot deaths occurred in the last three years. Though the cameras won't be monitored 24/7, they're live and monitoring. Details are still being working on access to the footage. [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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Leadership and You?

03/12/10 48 W - + 7 - 3

Discussion topic for the day. Recent comments and topics have referenced fire service leadership. What leadership traits do you try to exemplify in your fire service roles? What traits of other leaders have you tried to emulate or embody? Share you feelings. Group hug later.

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 in Pink Hill

03/12/10 86 W - + 4 - 4

Big fire in Lenoir County this morning. The Family Restaurant at [305 S. Front Street](#) in Pink Hill. Five Lenoir and Duplin fire departments and 55 firefighters responded to the 6:12 a.m. alarm. Pink Hill FD, Deep Run FD, Southwood FD, Potter's Hill FD, and Albertson FD were among the responders. The *Kinston Free Press* posted a picture of the aftermath, shown below. [Read their article](#). Other coverage includes a short [WITN report](#).

[Missing photo]

Chris Lavender/Kinston Free Press 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.

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

This Morning's Airport Drill

03/13/10 81 W, 1 I - + 5 - 2

Mass-casualty exercise at Raleigh-Durham International Airport. Participating agencies included RDU Emergency Services, Raleigh FD, Durham Highway FD, Morrisville FD, Bethesda FD, Parkwood FD, Wake County EMS, Six Forks EMS, Cary EMS, Apex EMS, Eastern Wake EMS, Durham County EMS, RDU Police, Raleigh Police, Wake County Fire-Rescue, Wake County Emergency Management, and Red Cross. **Click once or twice** to enlarge panorama, created using a [program we've blogged about](#) called AutoStitch. Pictures from Legeros (shown) and Lee forthcoming.



How many patients can the Multiple Patient Transport vehicle carry?

Jones - 03/13/10 - 14:32

Holds 16 on stretchers, or 34 seated, if memory serves.

Legeros - 03/13/10 - 14:35

14 horizontal patients is the capacity.

Olson - 03/13/10 - 14:56

Where was the Cary Fire Department? Pulling knox box keys? Does anyone know if they were invited? They seem to be closer than some of the other units that participated?

knox box - 03/13/10 - 21:07

Yes they were invited, but for some reason they did not show.

Sure were - 03/13/10 - 23:50

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Colors of the Rainbow

03/13/10 44 W, 1 I - + 6 - 2

All we're missing is a Garner truck for a full spectrum of chevron colors courtesy of Wake County, Durham County and Six Forks EMS units. As photographed at the airport maintenance building, post-drill.



Who dictates what colours chevrons should be? Is it left up to each department?

In terms of stand-out-ish-ness I think Wake is first and Durham is last.

Paul - 03/13/10 - 16:30

I am unaware of the standards for ambulances, but the NFPA 1901 (2009 ed.) for fire apparatus states the rear should be covered with at least 50% striping (chevrons) that are: 6" wide; at a 45deg angle down and outward from the mid-line; and are a single color alternating between RED and either: yellow, fluorescent yellow, or fluorescent yellow-green. So, the specified colors are: Red/yellow, Red/fluorescent yellow, Red/fluorescent yellow-green.

A.C. Rich - 03/13/10 - 21:02

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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Chute Happens

03/13/10 67 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

That's Engine 3 rescuing a parachutist from a tree during this afternoon's St. Patrick's Day celebration in downtown Raleigh. He was aiming for Moore Square, but was blown a bit off course. The veteran jumper was rescued by parking an engine beneath him. His parachute was recovered with the assistance of aerial ladder special-called to the scene. [Read the WRAL story.](#)



Mike Charbonneau/WRAL photo

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

Remember personal info?

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No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Cary EMS Truck 3

03/13/10 63 W, 1 I - + 11 - 3

This remounted ambulance body on a 2010 Chevrolet G4500 chassis was recently received by Cary EMS. The many years-old Medtec modular body was previously mounted on old 573. The new truck is designated Truck 3, and is presently assigned the Wake County EMS System unit number of EMS 56. [Read more about the Cary EMS fleet.](#)



So is the SFEMS (121)?truck a remount? I saw a Chevy chassis recently I thought. By the way do the Chevy's come with a Dura Max diesel or are they gas engines?

Curious - 03/14/10 - 13:52

What is the cost savings for a remount versus and entirely new vehicle? And more importantly, is it worth the savings??

Dean Witter - 03/14/10 - 13:57

Medtech ambulance boxes have a lifetime warranty. As long as you supply the new cutaway front, they will remount the box for free.

I own an ambulance - 03/14/10 - 16:30

SFEMS 121 and 124 are new boxes and chassis and the Chevys have Dura Max diesels. The Ford PowerStroke, particularly in the E series chassis, has been terribly problematic for years. As to the savings, it is probably around \$30k- \$40k. There are advantages to doing it, mainly cost, but there are disadvantages as well. I think though, in these economic times, agencies should look hard a remounts. If the box is in good condition, then is can work. The way a lot of EMS agencies treat the chassis, it is good for about 100k miles then it is junk. In some services, where the staff has no pride in the trucks and don't care about them, they are torn all to pieces by 50k.

DJ - 03/14/10 - 17:07

Medtec will remount the boxes for free. How can they eat the remount cost which is atleast 15-20K for the basic.

confused - 03/15/10 - 17:14

There are conflicting data about the cost-efficiency of re-mounting, depending on the use of your equipment. For units that age out, but are not worn out, re-mounting can be a good deal. You get a new chassis for a relatively new, serviceable box. If you're talking about a heavily used unit, the box often starts to fail before the chassis. Re-mounting a bad box produces no real bargain.

I hate that – the answer is "it depends."

CH100 ([Email](#)) - 03/17/10 - 15:32

There are certainly variables in this. As for a free remount... you are paying somewhere. I will say that departments using Excellence ambulances have had impressive results with their remount program. They utilize all welded aluminum bodies and interior cabinetry. They have a lifetime warranty on structural integrity. You do pay a pretty penny up front but each remount saves \$30K or so. Medic in Charlotte runs Excellence as well.

Rode a bus - 03/18/10 - 00:00

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Overexposure

03/14/10 153 W, 1 I - + 6 - 4

Incident photography is challenging. You're trying orient yourself in a dynamic physical environment, while staying safe and out of everyone's way, while composing and anticipating shots, while traversing as many sides of the scene as possible, and while operating one or two cameras. And those cameras have controls. Buttons, dials, etc. What happens when you're rushed, and perhaps more prone to manhandling your gear? Lately that's meant accidentally switching to manual focus-- resulting in blurry photos-- or accidentally switching to a manual shutter setting. The latter was done during the height of yesterday's airport drill. Right when the action started, in fact. Here's an example of the resulting overexposure. See more examples in the soon-to-be-posted full series. Thankfully, the mistake was caught within a few minutes. Always keep an errant eye on the LCD screen, even in sunlight. And, duh, listen for that ever-so-perceptible sound of a lagging or slower shutter.



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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Suspected Chemical Suicide in Oxford

03/15/10 129 W, 1 I - + 6 - 4

The morning news brings reports of a suspected chemical suicide in Oxford late last night, when police were called to a residential neighborhood about 10 p.m. to investigate a suspicious vehicle. They found a woman slumped over in her vehicle, and apparently deceased. When an officer opened the door, chemicals were found on the front passenger seat. That officer was also overcome-- or at least affected, as reports vary-- and transported to the hospital. A Raleigh Fire Department hazardous materials unit was called to the scene for assistance. This mimics a similar incident that occurred in Cary last month. We [subsequently blogged about some good presentation slides](#) on the subject of chemical suicides and responder safety. Sources: [WRAL](#), [WTVD](#).



Stacy Davis/WRAL photo

there is no such thing as a routine call

ab - 03/15/10 - 20:33

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

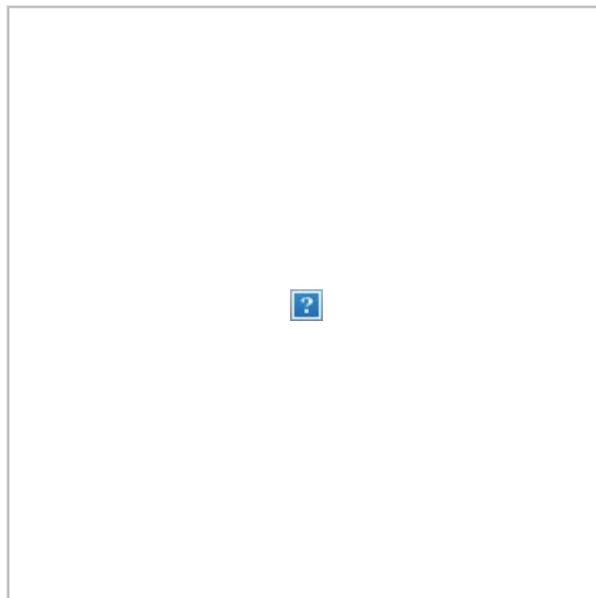
/ [Textile](#)

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Social Media?

03/15/10 135 W, 1 I - + 4 - 3

Discussion topic for the day, how should fire departments and EMS agencies use and better use social media for the benefit of their customers? e.g., for the benefit of citizens, which we can call their stakeholders. There's the obvious objective of prevention and life safety. What about base education on emergency services? What you do, how you do it, and how much it costs? Also, how can these tools help media awareness, or expedite media contact? Does a dynamically updated incident blog, say, cut down on phone calls to dispatchers or other officials? What about educating officials, and keep them in better loops? The options are many. E-mail, discussion groups, blogs, Wikis, web pages, photo sharing (Flickr), video sharing (YouTube), microblogs (Twitter), social networks (Facebook), and so on. What say you?



Hey, this sounds familiar!!

A.C. Rich - 03/15/10 - 10:01

Charlotte Fire has a Twitter account that they post most of there incidents on such as working fires and rescues. Durham Fire has a facebook page that post Working fires and news about the department. I think its a great idea and more departments should do it to inform the public.

7721 - 03/15/10 - 16:25

The Clayton Police Department uses Twitter, Facebook and YouTube (all linked together) to let the public know what is going on. We share video from crimes, along with stories and highlights of things going on in the Town of Clayton as they pertain to police service. The department also posts arrest photos and tags them on facebook for family and friends of those locked up to see.

Social networking sites are a GREAT way to share information with the public in a more dynamic means than that of a sometimes static website.

Joe Brady ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 03/15/10 - 19:48

Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

Chute Happens, The Video

03/15/10 27 W - + 6 - 4

Found by Lee. He certainly picked the perfect tree for landing, right beside the engine! Our [prior posting on same](#).

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'?

Afterburner 2000® Aerosol Delivery System

03/16/10 139 W, 1 I - + 6 - 5

With [Lee's pictures now posted](#) from Saturday's airport drill, you can see those "smoke guns" in action? What the heck are those things? That's the Afterburner 2000® Aerosol Delivery System, we later learned, designed, developed, and sold by [MSI Delivery Systems](#) in Rocky Mount. It's a "multi-mission, multi-purpose smoke generator" that can be used for fire department and first responder training, obscuring the battlefield for military application, entertaining and special effects, and so on.

Or the non-toxic smoke can be mixed with specific chemicals for purposes including neutralizing chemical attacks, decon, urban warfare, tactical incursions, riot control, and infestation control. [Read more](#) including the specs. Such as a one-second trigger burst that releases 1,500 cubic-feet of smoke, and with a range greater than 100 feet. Pretty cool.



Lee Wilson photo

A portable smoke machine? What WILL they think up next? That's pretty cool.

Duda - 03/16/10 - 11:04

But they come close...

Legeros - 03/16/10 - 13:40

who owns those?

curious - 03/16/10 - 23:22

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Fire Commission Budget Committee Meetings

03/16/10 229 W - + 7 - 3

For those interested in the finer points of sausage-making, the Fire Commission Budget Committee meets tonight, Tuesday, March 16, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the EMS Training Facility in the lower level of the Wake Commons Building at [4011 Cary Drive](#). Same place as regular Fire Commission meetings. This is the first of several scheduled meetings. The calendar is below, and reflects a revised schedule consisting of evening instead of day meetings. These are public meetings, and the new evening times are intended as more citizen-friendly.

Fire Commission Budget Committee Calendar

- March 16 - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Review Capital Budget Recommendations from Capital Committee
- March 23 - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Address Feedback / Issues from March 18 Fire Commission Meeting
- March 30 - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Topic TBD
- April 6 - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Topic TBD
- April 13 - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Topic TBD
- April 20 - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Topic TBD
- April 2 - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Topic TBD

Location for all at the EMS Training Facility, Wake Commons Building, 4011 Cary Drive.

On May 6, the Budget Committee presents its final recommendation to the Fire Commission. On May 13, if needed, the Fire Commission meets to further discussion. On May 17, the County Manager presents his budget recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.

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.

Strange Accidents

03/16/10 197 W, 1 I - + 8 - 3

We started the morning with Statter911 and [footage of a car running into a rock slide](#). Highway 129 in Blount County, Tennessee. Begin with one rock slide. Add one camera crew, filming said rock slide. Add one distracted driver, watching said camera crew. To the guy's credit, they were on a curve. But, really, aren't we all? No apparent injuries on that one.

Afternoon saw an aircraft accident in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. A single-engine Lancair IV-P was gliding to an emergency landing on the beach, when it struck and killed a jogger. The victim was listening to his iPod, and apparently didn't the plane's silent but deadly approach. He was killed instantly. The pilot and passenger were unharmed. [Read the WIS10 account](#).

Also this afternoon, and right here at home, a sport-utility vehicle crashed off the end of Interstate 540 near Knightdale. The vehicle traveled down an embankment, and into a dense cluster of trees. The driver was discovered dead, though investigators say that there's a different reason for his death. Additional details have not been released, [reports this WTVD story](#). They also posted a number of aerial and traffic camera photos.



WTVD photo

looks like that would've been the opportune time to rob a bank in K-dale. My sources say that running off the end of the road there isn't unusual.

Duda - 03/17/10 - 10:39

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Mystery Boots

03/16/10 12 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

Who and where? Click to enlarge, if it helps.



Capt. Fanning?

Jakey - 03/16/10 - 21:40

Capt Page???

JOCO - 03/16/10 - 22:29

Capt. Fanning at KTC

Curly Howard - 03/16/10 - 22:42

Hmmmm, I'm going with Fanning at KTC too, the crack looks familiar. I know the training staff were given Haix boots to try out, so it might be Capt. Page.

Decisions, decisions...is that crack behind Central Firehouse or at KTC?

Silver - 03/17/10 - 00:29

Capt Fanning! The only haix boots given out as proto types were to page, coppage and fanning!!!! Page wears his pants not bloused, fanning does and fanning has been running the driver operator school for the last 3 weeks!

jason lane - 03/20/10 - 22:38

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

The Wearing of the Grin

03/17/10 110 W - + 3 - 3

From boots to shoes. *The Wearing of the Grin* was directed by Chuck Jones and written by Michael Maltese. That's the legendary pair that produced some of Warner Brothers most memorable cartoons ever, including *Duck Dodgers in the 24^{1/2} Century*, *One Froggy Evening*, *Rabbit Fire*, and the classic of classics, *What's Opera Doc?* The short was released theatrically on July 28, 1951, and was the final cartoon featuring Porky Pig solo and without a sidekick. The title refers to the old Irish ballad *The Wearing of the Green*, while the green shoes come from Hans Christian Andersen's fable *The Red Shoes*. [Read more](#). Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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

Yes

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Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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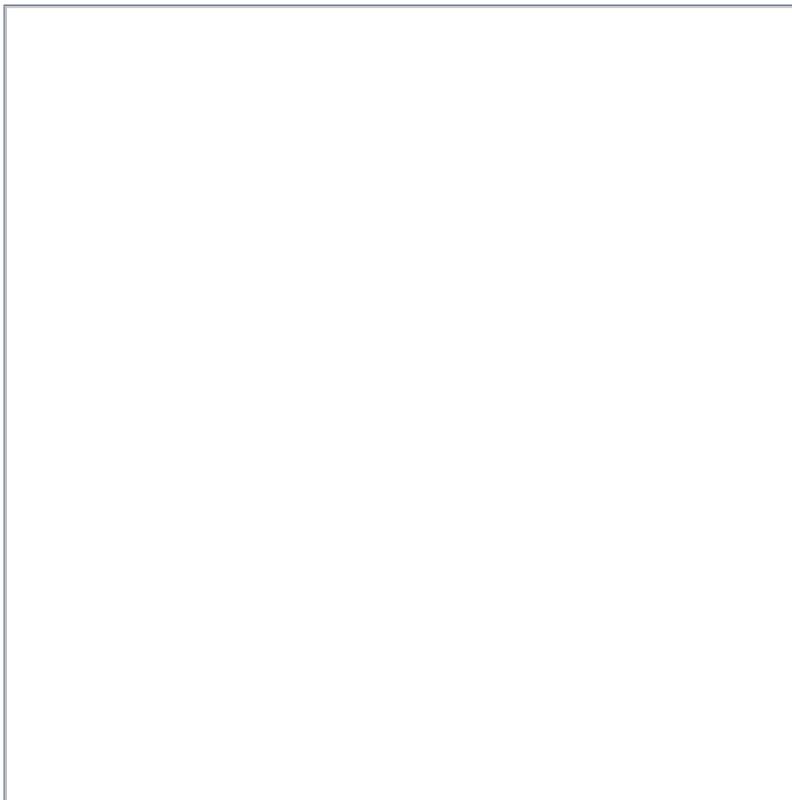
1949 Chevy Crash Truck (?) For Sale

03/17/10 116 W, 2 I - + 10 - 4

Here's a nifty find on Craigslist, a [1949 Chevy fire truck for sale in Angier](#). Same looks like an ex-military crash truck, and quite a bit like Raleigh-Durham International Airport's first crash truck, which was a 1946 International/Bean US Army Class 125 crash truck.



Here's a later photo of the RDU rig, after it was repainted white and apparently requiring some manual assistance, and which you can click to slightly enlarge. Read about the Class 125 apparatus at the nifty [Fire Trucks at War web site](#). As for the Angier truck, there's little else in the posting. We'll mail the seller and see what else we can learn.



Raleigh Times photograph

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Goldsboro Fire Wagon, Circa 1890s

03/17/10 211 W, 1 I - + 6 - 1

Here's a nifty photo from the [North Carolina State Archives](#), showing a horse-drawn hose wagon in Goldsboro in the 1890s. The driver is identified as Samuel Thorton, and the wagon appears lettered for Goldsboro No. 1 Fire Company. Or perhaps Goldsboro No. 1 Hose Company. What do we know about their fire department then?

Sanborn Maps from January 1891 list the fire department as having one steam fire engine, one chemical engine, three hose carts, and 2,000 to 2,500 feet of hose in good condition. The town had a waterworks, though perhaps no hydrants. Population 5,000.

By April 1896, the fire department consisted of volunteers plus paid engineers and drivers, one Silsby steamer, one chemical engine, two horse-drawn hose wagons, two hand-drawn hose reels, and 1,800 feet of hose. The water system was equipped with 85 double hydrants, with average pressure of 50 pounds per square inch. Population still 5,000.

Looking closely at the photo-- **click once or twice to enlarge**-- a few features are visible. There's a gong opposite the floorboard, and that would be foot-powered. The rear of the wagon has the tailboard, and what might be a pair of lamps in the rear. That might be a toolbox on the tailboard as well. No other equipment is obvious.



Courtesy North Carolina State Archives

Technology?

03/18/10 74 W - + 7 - 1

Discussion topic for the day, inspired by [this firehouse.com article](#) about engineers developing a flashover detection device that could give firefighters a 20 to 30 second warning when interior conditions are worsening. What are implications for firefighters as technology develops? And what are your feelings therein about what's gained in tools versus what might be lost in skills? Draw from the experience of the introduction of thermal imaging cameras as needed. What say you?

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: [/ Textile](#)

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Fire Commission Meeting Highlights

03/18/10 519 W - + 4 - 4

First, see the [previously posted agenda and related documents](#). Very short meeting tonight, perhaps a record. Adjourned about 7:35 p.m. On the regular agenda, the Fire Commission approved distribution of FY10 contingency funds, as well as a revision to the small vehicle policy. The latter changes the mileage replacement for administrative-type vehicles from 75,000 to 100,000 miles.

An overview was presented of FY11 budget development. Fire tax revenues are projected to be slightly more than the current budget year, which might be considered no small feat given our economic conditions (my words). Another \$9,000 of revenue is expected in apparatus sales. In FY10, apparatus sales totaled \$46,000, which were sales of apparatus originally purchased by single fire tax district funds and subsequently replaced by the county.

Department appropriations are assumed as the same as this budget year, at least during this process. Added expenditures include increases for staffing, local government retirement system adjustments, and operating costs for Garner Station 4. That facility is expected to be operational in November. Funding includes training of some personnel, as well as the operating costs once opened. There are also a mess of system-wide appropriations. CAD, radio, haz-mat, forestry, etc.

On the information agenda, county staff presented the latest revision of the Fire Protection Agreement. They noted that the document is not ready for approval at this time, but the Fire Commission was being provided the latest version. A committee is still working on same, and the goal date for presenting to the Fire Commission for approval is by July 1. Might have a special-called meeting for that purpose.

County staff called particular attention to additions in Section 13, concerning the composition of Board of Directors. Added language includes a restriction against "compensated current employees" serving on boards, a restriction against "family members" of the fire chief serving on Boards, and a requirement of 20 percent citizen composition of boards, for those departments with by-laws that permit same.

There was subsequent discussion about Section 13. Such as what constitutes a family member, which is defined in the agreement as parent, spouse, child, or sibling. Did that also include, say, the son-in-law of a fire chief? That was explained in a fashion that Yours Truly doesn't readily recall, or perhaps didn't entirely follow. It was noted that the committee has also received the suggestion of a similar restriction for the President of a Board.

There was other discussion about Section 13. Such as requiring versus recommending citizen participation on Boards, and how some departments have difficulty getting citizens to participate therein. Except where by-laws prohibit. Yes, it's true, some departments prohibit citizens from serving on boards. Other department boards, it was noted, consist exclusively of citizens.

There were comments about departments with older by-laws, crafted back before paid personnel were on the roster. And the need for revision and revisiting.

And the discussed wrapped with the acknowledgement that this agreement represents a smaller step toward more uniform governance (my words). Kicking over the rock, as one person noted. But not changing everything at once.

Corrections and additions welcome. Next time, how 'bout a group photo?

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Remember personal info?
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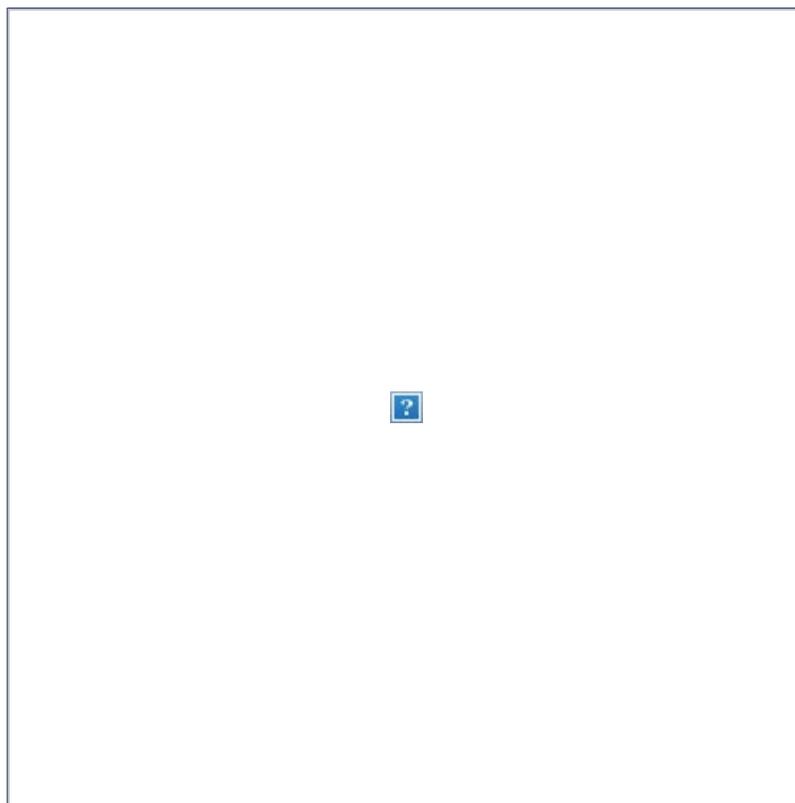
Appreciation

03/19/10 245 W, 1 I - + 6 - 5

On Sunday, March 14, at 1:50 p.m., Engine 16 was dispatched to a request for service at Shelly Lake. The requestor's (or as called in the trade, the complainant's) dog was stranded in the middle in the lake. The animal had been swimming (and chasing birds, if memory serves) for an hour, and wouldn't return to shore no matter who was calling its name. The owner was distressed and there may have been talk of swimming to reach the animal. A city park's ranger was on scene, but no boats were available. Presumably locked away for the winter.

The fire department was called, and Engine 16 requested Rescue 3 to respond with its boat. They arrived and with assistance of the ranger, placed their rigid hull inflatable boat in the water. They paddled to the location of the dog, and Roxy was removed from the water about 2:30 p.m. For firefighters this was, well, a day in the park. They had their equipment at the ready, expediently deployed same, and performed their task. For the public, it was a positive example of their fire department in action.

Shelley Lake was busy that day, and Yours Truly (who lives two blocks away) watched and overheard dozens of appreciative remarks and comments and applause from observing citizens. It was a neat of example of positive response to the job. First responders do their work and the public appreciates them. [See photos from the incident.](#) We'll call myself Canine Photo 1.



Good job RFD. Why wasn't the local media all over ths story?

They had rather tell the story of failure,dispare and or the slow response times or the scandal at City Hall etc...

Way to go fellas.

Buckwheat - 03/19/10 - 17:56

Why wasn't local media present? Well, this occurred on a Sunday afternoon, which is when I suspect the fewest number of "beat reporters" are "listening for action." The non-dramatic "request for service" dispatch isn't exactly an attention-getter, and, unless you were monitoring the talkgroups, you wouldn't hear the particulars of what was happening. That is, you wouldn't even know that such a rescue was underway. That's one possible explanation. But I am neither a member of the media, nor play one on television.

Legeros - 03/19/10 - 18:03

I don't know you may be right. I think you bring up some good points.

But wonder what the media would do if a request for service is dispatched "to clean up" and it was a blood or other body fluids from a signal 103. I wonder if they would be all over it if the incident occurred in South Raleigh or Durham or Fayetteville? Just seeing the live shot from the frazzled reporter at the incident and the boom raised to get the aerial camera shot of the Police units on scene and a dramatic reading of events that took place.

Just thinking out loud.

But I don't want to take anything away from the boys on E16 and R3.

Any how....good points Mike. I would just like to see more positive news about the Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement service.

Guess I'll go back to sleep now.

Buckwheat - 03/19/10 - 18:22

I am a member of the media, and I did hear the call. Mike is right when he suggests that there aren't a lot of reporters out there to cover a story like this. (They don't monitor scanners anyway.) Would I have covered it if I knew a dog was being rescued? You bet. However, when I hear a request for service getting dispatched, I often won't listen to the TAC or OPS channel, because it usually is something like a clean up, or something that would never make the news. Should we cover more stories like this? Absolutely. But there are much, much larger issues at hand here, and being a very small fish in a very large ocean often prevents the coverage of some stories over others. When I realized what was going on, it was too late to get someone there, as the hard working Firefighters had already got the dog out of the water. If only Mike would sell his pics to us media types... ;)

J.A.F.O. - 03/20/10 - 13:56

In my next life, maybe I will be a photojournalist. Thanks for the other-side input!

Legeros - 03/20/10 - 13:59

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preferred)

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

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Rainwater Harvesting at Station 8

03/20/10 65 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

Those shiny shapes behind Station 8 are cisterns for collecting rainwater. Four have been installed, along with an outdoor electric pump discreetly hidden under a plastic rock. The water is non-potable, but perfect for utilitarian tasks, such as washing vehicles or watering lawns. Several fire stations are having harvesting equipment installed, [as we reported earlier](#).



To assist with the budget shortfalls, these structures will be rented out as private bungalows during the dry season...

A.C. Rich - 03/23/10 - 10:56

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Caption This Photo / The Buffalo House

03/20/10 119 W, 1 I - + 11 - 7

That's the so-called Buffalo House at [4115 Buffalo Road](#), which gave up the ghost this afternoon for the occasion of firefighter training with New Hope, Bay Leaf, Durham Highway, Falls, Knightdale, Rolesville, Stony Hill, Wake Forest, and Western Wake fire departments. (Did I miss anyone?) Tax records say the two-story structure dates to 1915, and the two-story wood-frame structure measured 2,605 square-feet. The land measures 6.13 acres. Numerous interior evolutions were performed in the morning and afternoon, and the structure was allowed to freely burn beginning about 4:00 p.m. Needless to say, quite a crowd of folks had gathered to watch. What other history do folks know about the building or the property? Click to enlarge:



mikey,
thanks for coming out, you and Lee do a great job and we appreciate it.
Thanks for all who came out and attended, I hope everyone had a good time...
a couple of things, Buffalo (need to add the e) also western wake, durham highway had people there also.

Again great training by all.

NH102 - 03/20/10 - 20:40

Good thing we were there, too, in case those 30 or 50 other cameras all broke!

That was the most photographingness fire I think I have ever seen!

Legeros - 03/20/10 - 20:53

House on fire? Nope got cold and decided to turn the heat up. Heres your sign.

None - 03/21/10 - 09:46

Wonder how many 911 calls were received at ECC during training exercise? Can't imagine.

Big D - 03/21/10 - 11:25

hold tight, wait 'till the party's over

Joe Brady ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 03/21/10 - 12:44

The reds in this photo are a bit exaggerated, I believe. Pushed the saturation a little too high in post-processing. The real fire wasn't quite as

rich. The posted version will be a bit toned down.

Legeros - 03/21/10 - 15:13

Shockingly enough, we actually had one call from a person in the neighborhood behind the house. That was it.

Marcus - 03/22/10 - 00:06

And that was just for a light haze in the area.

Marcus - 03/22/10 - 00:07

I'm going to have to remember not to "hot dog" around you and Lee next time...

Thanks to you and Lee for being there to capture the event for posterity, thanks to the Buffaloe Family for donating the house for us all, and thanks to Wake New Hope for hosting us.

Great training and a great time overall.

DUDA

Duda - 03/22/10 - 09:39

Duda Dude, I think the better hot dog photo was the Facebook version, with just a close-cropped shot of some firefighter with weiners in hand. Now THAT would have been a good "mystery" photo!

Legeros - 03/22/10 - 20:14

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preferred)

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Wet

03/21/10 103 W, 1 I - + 4 - 8

Here's another shot from yesterday's live burn at the Buffalo House. Though the photographer wasn't harmed during the making of this image, he did get a bit wet, when a deflected stream sprayed his way. Took some 600 or 700 shots. Maybe a third are keepers. Lots of people shots, as these events are good for. Some are slightly posed. Look at the camera please, but that's just to turn someone's face toward the sun and out of shadow. Big trucks and blazing buildings are compelling subjects, but the human face is endlessly interesting. Pics to be posted soon enough. Click to enlarge:



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Back in the Day

03/21/10 66 W, 2 I - + 7 - 10

This vintage photo was shown and shared with visitors to yesterday's live burn at the Buffalo House. The photograph of the framed picture has been converted to greyscale, with heavy contrast adjustments, and corrected for the distortion of viewing at an angle. The house was built in sections, correct? With rear additions in later decades? Click to enlarge the top photo:



I talked with her when she arrived yesterday and she actually mentioned the house in the pic was was built mid to late 1800's (unsure of exactly when) ...the collapsed building about a 100 yards from the back right corner was a slave quarters...and multiple additions were done thru out the years...

visitor... - 03/21/10 - 18:15

Wonder how easily we could retrieve the deed(s) for that property, to determine original building or ownership dates? The county Register of Deeds has an application on their web site, but how far back are digital records?

Today's Industrial Fire in Wilmington

03/21/10 101 W, 1 I - + 6 - 10

[FireNews](#) finds this dramatic photo posted by the Wilmington *StarNews* of this afternoon's major fire at an optical fiber plant at [310 N. College Road](#), and the billowing smoke that was seen across town. The plant's brigade began fighting the fire prior the arrival of the Wilmington Fire Department, which the article says sent eight trucks to the scene. They were assisted by the New Hanover Fire Department, which also helped cover calls in the city. The fire was controlled in about an hour. [Read the article](#), and see more photos.



Jeff Janowski/Wilmington StarNews photo

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Last Night's Woods Fire in Apex

03/21/10 270 W, 1 I - + 7 - 9

Let's wrap a weekend of shooting and posting photos with a recap of last night's woods and rubber fire in Apex, with information drawn from [news reports](#), radio traffic, [FireNews incident report](#), and other sources. Same started as woods fire reported in the area of the Wake County Fire Training Center at [5620 Shearon Harris Road](#) about 8:00 p.m. The fire subsequently threatened the nearby Cary Police Department firing range on Shooting Drive. Crews protected the structures there, but flames spread to a quantity of tire rubber serving as a backstop for bullets. The resulting melting rubber created a runoff hazard for Harris Lake, and sand trucks and heavy equipment were called to the scene to mitigate the hazard and assist with extinguishing.

Water shuttle operations were utilized with tankers from Apex and Moncure in Chatham County. The water point was Apex Fire Station 2, about four miles away. Additional personnel was requested from Fairview Fire Department. Medical monitoring and rehab was conducted by Apex EMS and Wake County EMS. Units on scene included Apex E2, Tanker 1, Tanker 2, Brush 1, Brush 2, Battalion 1, Car 1, Utility 1 and foam trailer, Mobile Command 1; Fairview E1, Brush 1, Car 2; Moncure tankers; Forestry units 1190, 1191, and the plow (unit number?); EMS 42, District 2, Truck 1; and WC1. Others? [See preliminary photos by Legeros](#)¹, taken after the woods fire but before the rubber fire was extinguished. Click to enlarge:



¹What did that pile of burning rubber look like? Just a big, black, pile of smoking materials that only occasionally flared with flames, as shown above. Those were quickly doused. Just a lot of really stinky smoke.

I think the plow might be 1195? Can't remember.

Bob P. - 03/22/10 - 09:01

Looks like Moncure had a unit out there as well

JA - 03/23/10 - 00:03

About the forestry plow unit #; the NCFs ranger that operates the plow actually has 2 unit numbers. when he is in his state vehicle pick-up it would be 1195 (11 would be what district he is from and 95 would be what county he's from and his job position). but when he is operating his equipment (plow, external water pump, etc.) it would change slightly to 11X95 to let the district HQ that he is currently inside and operating his equipment.

Aaron B. - 03/25/10 - 00:17

Blowing Rock Funeral Arrangements and Lodging Discounts

03/23/10 110 W - + 10 - 9

FireNews yesterday posted preliminary funeral arrangements for Blowing Rock Fire Department members Jeremy Bolick and Tommy Wright, who died Sunday in a vehicle accident. A procession is planned for today, Tuesday, March 23, between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m., to escort their bodies from Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem. Visitation is tomorrow, Wednesday, March 24, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Hampton Funeral Service, [683 Blowing Rock Road](#) in Boone. The Funeral is Thursday, March 25, at 11:00 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Blowing Rock, [350 Sunset Drive](#). Additional, FireNews has information on two hotels in Boone that are offering discounts for firefighters attending services. [Read the information.](#)

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Three Alarms

03/23/10 113 W, 1 I - + 9 - 12

While we collect our facts and build the narrative of this evening's three alarm fire on Armadale Lane, what were the units on scene? Ditto for coverage? First alarm: E28, E19, E22, L5, R1, B1. Working fire: E27, C10, C20, A1. Second alarm: E15, E11, E25, L2, R2, B2. Third alarm: E21, E7, E9, L1, R3. Also: C1, C2, B4, others? New Hope FD: E3, E8, R14, C1, others? Medical: EMS 66, EMS 16, EMS 5, D3, D6, M92, T1, Chief 200, others? Coverage: Falls P212 at RFD 19, Wake Forest E1 at RFD 25, Bay Leaf P251 at RFD 4, others? Preliminary photos by Legeros (below) posting shortly, with shots from Lee later. Click to enlarge:



Aerial footage from WRAL displays an awesome view of what "big water" is all about; sorry to see so many lost their property and memories, very unfortunate. The families are in my thoughts, and my Brothers and Sisters that shed gallons of sweat on this job are in my prayers for a safe return home.

http://www.wral.com/news/news_briefs/sto..

Silver - 03/23/10 - 23:54

Also NH B-7 and Tnkr-10 working brush fires in the neighborhood. NH C-2 & C-3. Also archers lodge was onscene assisting with Brush fires and Traffic.

Doppler - 03/24/10 - 00:57

Rolesville to New Hope for Coverage

Me - 03/24/10 - 01:33

Archers Lodge? We didnt call mutual aid from Johnston County!

dispatch - 03/24/10 - 01:34

I hate to see the property loss too, but I am glad to see the deck guns flowing. Some people get in a habit of pulling small hand lines and forget that big fire equals big water.

rookie - 03/24/10 - 06:13

Here's what Lee recorded. Was there no working fire dispatch, and straight to second alarm? That might have been the case. First alarm: E28 E19 E22 L5 R1 BC1; Second: E27 E15 E11 E25 L2 R2 BC2 C20 C10 A1; Third: E21 E7 E9 L1 R3 BC4 C1 C2 HM2 SR2 SR3, New Hope FD E3 E8 R14 Tanker 10 BT7 C1 C3; WC1 & EM. Medical: EMS66 EMS16 EMS5 D3 D6 M92 T1 C200. Relief: E10 E24 E26 L3 L7 L6.

Legeros - 03/24/10 - 07:25

The News & Observer has a gallery this morning, with a couple photos from residents, showing the fire early into the incident,

<http://www.newsobserver.com/2010/03/24/4..>

Legeros - 03/24/10 - 07:29

Being that some of the same A Shift units responded to this fire as the massive townhouse fire off of Capital Blvd. Were any of the lessons that were learned from that fire utilized by the first due units here? Maybe quicker to write off a house or so to save the exposures or going directly to larger attack lines? These questions are meant to make something good out of this post, not looking to Monday morning quarterback.

Mike - 03/24/10 - 09:37

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Morning After

03/24/10 175 W, 1 I - + 6 - 12

Lots to do for a photographer, blogger, and historian on the morning after the three-bagger on Armadale Lane. First order of business was returning to the scene at daybreak. Snapped a number of photos on all sides of the seven destroyed or damaged buildings. Might post those this evening, and prior to processing the 957 shots from the fire. Sure, about 50 were processed and posted last night. They were quickly chosen; the most obvious "good shots" to feature. Culling the whole batch is a longer process. Lots of bad ones to be excised. Likely as few as 100 or 150 keepers. There's also the incident narrative to craft and post. What happened, who was there, which hydrants were used, and other obsessive particulars. From there, a version can be crafted for submission to FireNews, and maybe Firehouse. Heck, might even submit a photo to a magazine! Plus other postings that come to mind. Recalling Pine Knoll Townes. Observations on flammable ground cover. Etcetera. Time to get cracking! Click once or twice to enlarge:



Anyone know why the houses on the left were deemed unsafe to enter? Wondering what damage was done to them as they physically look to be in good shape from the outside.

H2O - 03/26/10 - 07:20

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Raleigh Firefighters Honored For Saving Woman

03/30/10 218 W - + 14 - 11

Updating our original posting. Four Raleigh firefighters received the [Firemark Award for Heroism](#) presented by Liberty Mutual Insurance on Saturday, March 27, in a ceremony at Station 16. The award honors firefighters who best represent their communities through valor and selfless spirit by assisting in heroic lifesaving efforts.

On May 31, 2008, shortly after 3:00 a.m., Engine 16 responded to a structure fire in a four-unit townhouse on Brown Bark Place. They were first on the scene, and rescued a 55-year-old woman from her bedroom. She was resuscitated on scene, recovered from the incident, and attended Saturday's ceremony. Another resident, a 89 year-old woman, was also rescued from her bedroom by other firefighters on scene. [See photos from that morning.](#)

Shown below, left to right, are Senior Firefighter Daniel Fox, Capt. Gary Amato, Senior Firefighter John Mitchell, and Lt. Donnie Wall. The ceremony included remarks from Lt. Bart Travis, who was also on scene on Ladder 16 (now Ladder 3), and who submitted the award application. Said Capt. Amato, "It was a great team effort by everyone involved, and they share in the credit."

There's also a national award that's given, and the members of Engine 16 are automatically nominated. [WRAL had a good story on this](#), and included the below photo. [See other pictures.](#)

[Missing photo]

Great Job Guys. Hope they keep this up just like the Code save program just wish the turnout for the was greater. Once again great job as always.

DuckEng1 ([Email](#)) - 03/30/10 - 19:40

Name: (real name preferred)
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Light and Dark

03/25/10 251 W, 2 I - + 9 - 12

Two versions of the same shot from Tuesday night. Rejects, not posted. Poor composition, by my eye. One is darker, one is lighter. The darker photo shows better fire detail. The lighter photo shows better surrounding detail. This perfectly demonstrates the challenges of shooting into very bright light at night. The camera often captures only the light and little else. Everyone reading has certainly experienced this. Giant fire at night. Take a picture. Nothing shows on film or in the digital image except a big mass of flames. To work around this problem, one technique is to "meter" the shots.

In the first photo, the darker photo, the photographer (moi) likely focused on the fire in the center of the frame. The camera thought the scene was "lighter than darker" and adjusted by not allowing as much light into the camera. The result is a darker image, and with less of the surrounding details. In the second photo, the lighter photo, the focus was likely locked on a darker area. Maybe the firefighters in the foreground, with the frame then adjusted to fill the composition. The camera thought the scene was "darker than lighter" and adjusted by allowing more light into the camera. Thus a bright shot, but also fewer details in the flames. That's the trade off.

The dark areas could be "filled" with a flash, but that presents a different set of challenges. Click to enlarge either:



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Today's Major Fire in Pittsboro

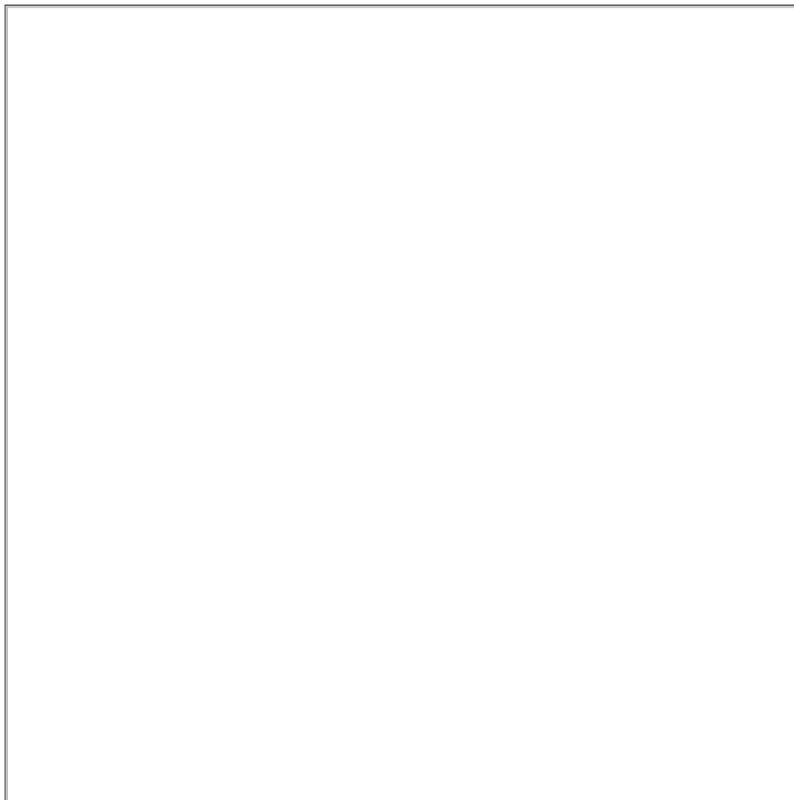
03/25/10 153 W, 2 I - + 14 - 8

WRAL played the wow footage of the day in their 6:00 p.m. broadcast, with live aerial images of the Chatham County courthouse building fire in Pittsboro. The three-story structure in the center of town, which dates to 1881, is surrounded by scaffolding due to renovations. Witnesses started seeing smoke in the area about 4:15 p.m., and the fire was reported about 4:45 p.m. [Read the WRAL story.](#)



WRAL photos

Mutual aid departments in Chatham County have included Goldston, Moncure, North Chatham (that's their tower), Siler City (that's their ladder), and Silk Hope, plus Deep River and West Sanford in Lee County, and Parkwood in Durham County (for tankers). Who else? Wind gusts (high) and water pressure (low) have been factors, we're heard. Other coverage includes the [News & Observer](#) (and an excellent photo from John Rottet) and [WTVB](#).



John Rottet/News & Observer photo

Apex Tanker 1 for water shuttle, Fairview Engine 8 coverage at North Chatham Station 1, Apex Engine 2 coverage at Moncure

Apex Batt Chief - 03/25/10 - 21:13

WRAL and WTVD had live coverage on this from 5 to 6:30. Now that is my kind of news cast. It looked like they were having severe water problems. Can anyone advise?

marcus - 03/25/10 - 21:42

Marcus I agree with you.

Anyone know what size water lines they have in that area and also how many alarms was this fire? 3 Maybe?

Buckwheat - 03/25/10 - 22:55

The Pittsboro FD site contains a short history section that notes a catastrophic fire in the late 1920s destroyed the old county courthouse, as well as several businesses in town. This fire and the addition of a water system in 1936 initiated the formal organization of the fire department. Wonder if that courthouse building is the same one that burned last night? Did they rebuild? Relocate to an equally older structure?

Legeros - 03/26/10 - 07:00

Okay, Google finds a bit of history. The county was formed in 1771. The first courthouse was a frame building on a farm, in the supposed geographic center of the county. Second was built in or after 1787 in Pittsboro, in a wood building a half-mile north of the old one. It was replaced in 1843 with the supposed first brick building in the county. It was replaced in 1881 on the site of the old one. It appears to have been a one-story building, and underwent major renovations in the 1930s. Perhaps as a result of the fire? No, the late 1920s fire must have destroyed the 1787 structure, right? This added a one-story addition to the ground floor. The interior was extensively remodeled in 1959.

<http://www.nccourts.org/County/Chatham/D..>

Legeros - 03/26/10 - 07:03

Finally, some additional incident details were logged at comments on Firegeezzer's blog, <http://firegeezzer.com/2010/03/25/carolin..>

Legeros - 03/26/10 - 07:11

Fire Revives Questions About Pine Straw Safety

03/25/10 227 W - + 6 - 12

That's the [headline in today's News & Observer](#), about Tuesday evening's major fire that destroyed or damaged seven structures, and spread between buildings by burning on the ground. Witnesses recall the fire crawling along the ground, "whipped by wind and fed by grass and pine straw" before igniting the structures.

The article also recalls the Pine Knoll conflagration of three years, that started when a cigarette was discarded in pine straw, and spread rapidly due to factors including strong winds. That fire destroyed two dozen town homes, and prompted city officials to consider recommending limits of combustible materials for landscaping purposes. No action was taken, if memory serves.

Other local municipalities have enacted such restrictions. After discarded cigarette plus pine straw equaled six destroyed town homes in Apex last year, the article adds, the town banned such arithmetic. That is, pine straw usage within ten feet of any structure with a combustible exterior. Two years earlier, a similar ordinance was approved in Chapel Hill. They also experienced a series of pine straw 'n' structure fires.

The article quotes the Raleigh Fire Marshal saying that city officials will reconsider similar limitations. Tuesday night's fire remains under investigation, and the cause is planned for announcement tomorrow. [Read the story.](#)

[Missing photo]

Cowey Lowenstein/News & Observer photo

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 - *2010 Public Safety* « **Fire Revives Question...** » **Flip Kissinger Family...**
Guns 'n' Hoses Hockey Game, Friday, March 26

2010 Public Safety Guns 'n' Hoses Hockey Game, Friday, March 26

03/25/10 143 W - + 8 - 15

Local police officers and firefighters face off in the Public Safety Guns 'n' Hoses hockey game at the RBC Center on Friday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. The game is the season's first RBC meeting between law-enforcing Blue Liners and the firefighting Leather Heads. They met earlier this season at the Rec Zone in Raleigh, where the Leather Heads clenched a 3-2 victory. Both teams play in the Lower-C division of Conference USA hockey at the Rec Zone.

The Blue Liners hail from the Raleigh Police Department and other local police departments. The Leather Heads represent Raleigh, Durham, Durham Highway, Fuquay-Varina, Garner, Knightdale, and Morrisville fire departments. Both the game and east-lot parking are free to the public. Concessions will be available during the game. Doors at the east entrance open at 7:00 p.m.

Was this game not a charity event in the past? Any reason why it is not one this year?

Why not? - 03/26/10 - 07:09

Tonight, there's a conflict of interest for most of us... The Longbranch is hosting a concert to benefit the family of the late Flip Kissinger... so most of us will be going to the game, and then getting a mountain of speeding tickets going over to the Branch.

Drive safely, everyone.

CJS ([Email](#)) - 03/26/10 - 09:16

There wasn't enough time to set up a charity event, this was a last minute thing with the RBC. We are hoping to have something put together in the very near future.

Stanley - 03/26/10 - 11:30

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 History Updated

03/30/10 75 W, 2 I - + 11 - 14

For your Friday amusement, here's a historical photograph found on eBay, and printed by the Siddell Studio in Raleigh. The picture is signed in period ink, says the seller, and probably depicts a North Carolina fire station. Any guesses? Click to slightly enlarge:



Tuesday update. Thanks to Steven's comment, we may have identified this building. Is it Farmville's municipal building, built 1928? The fire department was housed there until 1958.



I think that is the old town hall/police/fire station in Farmville NC. **Possibly** that might be the truck that was sold to Raleigh FD in 1942.

Steven ([Email](#)) - 03/30/10 - 07:33

Here's the ebay item, with seven hours left, <http://cgi.ebay.com/Police-and-Fire-Stat..>

Legeros - 03/30/10 - 07:46

Farmville it is, or so confirms the ebay seller, who sees an "F" on the firefighter's helmets, when the picture is magnified. Good detective work!

Legeros - 03/30/10 - 20:37

The fire department is now house there again. The fire station was originally built with 2 double bays in 1958 with an alley in between. In 1992 the alley was converted to a third double bay and the old municipal building became offices, etc. for the building. The doors on the right are a small museum for the department including the 1942 American La France.

Steven ([Web Site](#)) - 03/31/10 - 16:57

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Flip Kissinger Family Benefit Concert Tonight at the Longbranch

03/26/10 183 W - + 7 - 12

Late notice on this one. Tonight sees a benefit concert for the Flip Kissinger Family at the Longbranch, [608 Creekside Drive](#), Raleigh. Two bands are performing, Nash Vegas on the country side and The Amazing Lounge Lizards on the rock side. Doors open at 8:00 p.m., and the live music starts at 9:00 p.m. Additional attractions include door prizes and raffles, including a 50/50 raffle, a raffle for three nights at Sea Mist Condos in Myrtle Beach, a pair of new cowboy boots as door prize, and four rounds at Golf at Heritage as door prize. Several gift certificates will also be given away to local restaurants such as the Angus Barn, Hooters, Firebirds, The Fox and The Hound, and Shuckers. One caveat, you must be present to win! Proceeds will be deposited in the Kissinger Family Care Fund, to support the wife and two daughters of Raleigh firefighter Lt. Harry "Flip" Kissinger, who died in December. See you there! I'll be the guy in the Hawaiian shirt, with cowboy boots.

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 in Cary

03/26/10 86 W, 1 I - + 9 - 8

[WRAL posted a photo](#) of this morning's major fire in Cary at [8600 Macedonia Lake Drive](#), which is right around the corner from the Swift Creek Fire Department. Two alarms at a townhome under construction. Engine 3 arriving with heavy fire conditions. Ladder 3 deployed. Partial collapse of structure. First alarm: E3, E2, T6, L3, B1, Swift Creek. Second alarm: E6, L1, B2. Others? Coverage included Western Wake to Cary Station 2. Crews were on scene into the morning.



John Cox/WRAL photo

R2 on the 1st alarm, Cary EMS w/ 2 units?. Car 2, SO 21 were called & on the scene b/c of the 2nd alarm. WC1 called, on scene for fire cause investigation. Reserve truck 1094 called to the scene for air supply. T6 cleared the scene to cover Sta. 3.

Fire1983 - 03/28/10 - 12:21

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Raleigh Receives New Pierce Pumpers

03/26/10 120 W, 2 I - + 11 - 14

Two new pumpers were delivered today to the Raleigh Fire Department, a pair of 2010 Pierce Arrow XT engines, 1500 GPM, 500 gallons, with Waterous pumps and Husky foam systems. This is the second set of Arrow XT engines for the city, and sporting red lightbar lens instead of clear. They'll be placed in service in the next couple of weeks as Engine 11 and Engine 13, which presently operate a 2005 Pierce Enforcer and 2004 American LaFrance Eagle, respectively. They'll replace Engine 4 and Engine 28, respectively. The Master (Lee) will properly photograph the new engines at later dates, locations, and lighting conditions. Then in a few more months, we'll hopefully see a new Pierce tiller rolling into Raleigh. Click to enlarge:



I really like the painted roll-up doors on RFD's new apparatus. I also like the short doors on the cab of the Arrows, I imagine that makes it much easier to keep that bottom step clean. Very sharp looking trucks!

Jonathon P. - 03/27/10 - 10:18

Engines looks great. Agreed with the painted red doors. which is brighter...red lightbar lens or the clear ones? Significant cost difference?

Curious - 03/27/10 - 11:10

Does anybody if Engine 18 is going to replaced anytime soon ?

Chris ([Email](#)) - 03/27/10 - 17:19

Chris, we have heard: no new engines are on order for the next budget year...nor are there any new ladders or staff cars ordered. After these 2 engines, the only thing coming is the replacement Tiller sometime this summer.

RFD - 03/27/10 - 19:54

I agree 100% on the red roll up doors, much better in appearance than the standard grey doors, and much more visible as well.

CFP 7021 - 03/27/10 - 23:21

Great looking rig for the Capitol City! Asheville recently received a similar truck for E7 and it is very sharp as well. Now if we could get other cities to buy the Arrow XT rather than the ugly Velocity...

BFD1151 - 03/28/10 - 13:56

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Blur

03/26/10 102 W, 1 I - + 7 - 12

Here's another rejected photo from Tuesday night's major fire. This one's simply blurry. What happened? The level of light was lower, so the shutter closed slower. This allows more light to enter the camera. It also can cause blurring, from camera shake. Under normal circumstances, the camera is held as still as possible. Even braced against your face, and with your breath held for maximum effect. On scene, things move a little faster. Would a monopod or tripod help with stabilization? You betcha, though they're awfully unwieldy if you're moving around a lot. More photography lessons later. Click to enlarge.



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

Remember personal info?

 Yes No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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West of New Bern Firefighter Dies on Duty, 1973

03/27/10 280 W - + 8 - 13

On November 6, 1973, West of New Bern firefighter Gerald O'Neal Tilghman, 52, died on duty while directing traffic. An article in the January-February 1974 issue of *Hose & Nozzle* provides details. The four-year veteran fireman was stopping traffic on four-lane Highway 17 at the intersection with Simmons Street, to help apparatus reach a fire on Oaks Road.

One unit was approaching the intersection with lights and siren, and slowed to 20 miles an hour. A yellow Ford coupe went through the intersection, "just a yellow blur" recalled on the firemen on the truck. Tilghman apparently saw the car coming at him, was struck by the vehicle, and his body tossed 67 feet to his death.

The car stopped 475 feet down the road. There no skid marks before or after the point of impact, said police. The accident occurred at 9:25 p.m.. Tilghman was apparently killed on impact, and pronounced dead at Craven County Hospital about an hour later. The driver was charged with public drunkenness, driving under the influence, and failure to yield right-of-way to an emergency vehicle with siren sound and lights flashing.

Two other cars at the intersection and stopped. Tilghman's private vehicle was parked in the intersection, along the center median. He was dressed in a white shirt, grey pants, and wearing an olive drab jacket. He did not have a flashlight.

His death certificate lists additional information. The cause of death was skull fractures. He was buried on November 8 at Greenleaf Memorial Park in New Bern. Arrangements were made by Cotten Funeral Home of New Bern. He was survived by his wife Henrietta, and was employed in the occupation of civil service.

Their building of their main fire station is named after him.

jd - 03/30/10 - 20:04

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
 No

Comment:

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Mystery Apparatus

03/27/10 16 W, 1 I - + 10 - 6

Can you place this piece of equipment?



Piece of equipment? Sylvania halogen headlight. Probably the right side low beam, part number 4656.

DJ - 03/27/10 - 16:23

Now that's a classic response!

Legeros - 03/27/10 - 16:24

Judging by the dark and possible fire scene background behind it, and as DJ pointed out the Sylvania headlight, and the artistic flare of the Legeros photo, I would assume it is a Raleigh FD engine, either a Pierce or a Quality, out at the major fire the other night.

Meier - 03/27/10 - 16:25

Knightdale E-134. Sorry Mike, I saw you take the pic!

Beach ([Email](#)) - 03/27/10 - 18:15

Damn you DJ, beat me to it...

Silver - 03/27/10 - 21:13

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - This Afternoon's Major Fire / Peyton « Mystery Apparatus » Tornadoes Street

This Afternoon's Major Fire / Peyton Street

03/28/10 195 W, 1 I - + 8 - 11

Two alarms at [611 Peyton Street](#). Engine 12 arriving at a three-story, wood-frame with brick veneer apartment building, built 1969 with 9,936 square-feet, with heavy smoke showing from third floor in rear of structure, along with civilians in or hanging from third-floor windows. Rescued using ground ladders.

Dead hydrant at scene, and water supply delayed. Extension into attic, and through roof. Ladder 4 positioned with second water supply, and deployed for roof access. Battalion 2 assumed command on arrival, and requested second alarm a couple minutes later.

Command post and medical monitoring and rehab located on Dacian Drive. Staging on Peyton Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Latter roadway closed at Peyton Street, due to five-inch hose. Dispatched at 3:19 p.m. Controlled at 4:02 p.m.

Fire units included E12, E3, E7, L4, R2, B2 (first alarm), E10, A1, C10, C20 (working fire), E1, E5, E11, L8, R1, B3, B1, C2 (second alarm), E2, E26 (special called). EMS units included EMS7, EMS82, EMS62, M91, D1, D5, MD20, D1. Also on scene: C1, Red Cross. Twelve units rendered uninhabitable. No injuries, about 24 people displaced. Cause determined as accidental. [Preliminary photos by Legeros posted](#).



It appears that the 5" line laid to L-4 (L-111) was hooked into the auxillary inlet in the back of the ladder, the one that by-passes the pump. Was there an engine on the hydrant supplying the line in case the ladder had to flow water? Is the pump on that truck not working now?

wondering - 03/28/10 - 18:14

Once again good work with the ladders. Looks like a good stop was made

PGtruckie - 03/28/10 - 23:35

Info updated, from Lee's summary and official information. Lee has also posted his pic: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/leewilson/s..>

Legeros - 03/29/10 - 07:56

Gotta say awesome job for the aggressiveness and quick thinking of E12's crew for splitting up to make a rescue, start an interior attack, and overcome obstacles! Heck of a crew on 12/B!

RescueRanger - 03/29/10 - 10:26

Ditto...

Silver - 03/29/10 - 15:37

My daughter lived in this apartment building and thank God everyone made it out safely. Found out the day of the fire from family and my daughter since I live in another state. Thank you Raleigh Police and everyone else for a great job.

aspenrose38 ([Email](#)) - 03/30/10 - 18:07

Forgot to mention foremost the Raleigh Fire Department instead in my first email. Thanks again.

aspenrose38 - 03/30/10 - 18:09

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

[/ Textile](#)

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Tornadoes

03/28/10 94 W - + 12 - 8

CNN for starters is reporting that three likely tornadoes touched down outside Charlotte, outside Lexington, and in High Point. They cite weather service reports of damage to buildings and trees in western Mecklenburg County. Numerous mobile homes have been overturned in Davidson County, in Linwood. they report. In High Point, at least 20 homes are reported damaged. The twisters were spawned by a line of severe thunderstorms that's moving northeast. We're under a tornado watch in Raleigh. The storm's also producing 70 mph winds, they report, and hail as large as baseballs or tennis balls.

Name: (real name preferred)
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Remember personal info?

Yes

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Construction on Garner Station 4

03/30/10 75 W - + 10 - 8

The Garner Fire Department has posted [construction photos on their web site](#) of Station 4, along with building and site drawings. The three-bay facility is located on Spaceway Court, and will be a joint fire and EMS facility. Construction is scheduled for completion in October, and the station should open in November. See prior postings and reader discussions about the project, [here](#) and [here](#).

[Missing photo]

Garner Fire Department photo

And which EMS agency will operate units at the facility? That's the question someone will invariably ask, in reference to financial issues currently faced by the EMS division of Garner EMS & Rescue Squad. We'll discuss on a separate thread later. Until such time, let's keep the sh&t-stirring to a minimum, please. Anyone can play pile-on. Much, much harder is adding actual value to a situation that's painfully difficult for parties involved.

Legeros - 03/30/10 - 07:07

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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Yes

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Comment:

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Medical Volunteers Needed

03/30/10 31 W, 2 I - + 8 - 10

Special Olympics of North Carolina needs experienced medical personnel for the 2010 summer games on June 4 to June 6, 2010. [See this flyer](#) for more information, and a contact person.



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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

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North Carolina Civil Defense History

03/30/10 194 W, 1 I - + 11 - 10

From a reader, here's a neat new blog named [North Carolina Civil Defense History](#). New to myself, that is. The site archives date to May 2009. How did we learning of this great place? The blogger is Frank Blazich Jr. and who conducted his Masters research at North Carolina State University on the North Carolina Civil Defense Agency from 1961 to 1963.

He's also planning PhD research at Ohio State University, and will study the agency's entire history from 1950 to 1973. How cool does that research sound? A quick scroll through the site shows postings about Dr. Seuss and the Nuclear Freeze Movement, an NCCD newsletter from 1969, and his eBay finding of a 1956 state survival plan project report. And that's just the first page!

We've blogged about Civil Defense, such as these topics:

- [Ground Observer Corps](#)
- [Civil Defense Planning Guide, 1956](#)
- [Blackout Instructions, 1942](#)
- [Civilian Defense Materials, 1942](#)
- [Civil Defense Site Hidden Near Cameron Village](#)

Also check out these earlier [historical musings Civil Defense](#), from Mr. Blogger's pre-blogging days.

Great [new blog above](#), and thanks to Jeff for passing it along. Next step, send the guy an introduction. Memo to self: do that.



No prob!!

Silver - 03/30/10 - 23:37

Glad yall enjoy the blog. Scroll through the archives, as I try to post things that are a bit lighthearted/amusing (a la the Dr. Seuss book relating to the antinuclear movement), to countless primary documents I've gathered at the NC Archives. At this point I have a complete photographic copy of every document from the NC Civil Defense Agency files at the NC Archives, roughly 20 GB of data. Every month I try to post up a newsletter, memo, press release, etc. My PhD program at Ohio State is intense to say the least, but I'm happy to answer emails with what information I have either in my noggin or in my files.

Frank ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 03/31/10 - 08:41

Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

Flatbed For USAR

04/01/10 65 W - + 9 - 3

[North Carolina Task Force 8](#), the urban search and rescue team comprised of Cary, Chapel Hill, Durham, and Raleigh fire departments, recently received a flatbed trailer. Its primary use will be transporting preloaded shoring materials for local or regional deployment. It'll also be available for obtaining large training materials, props, tanks, culverts, etc. The trailer is at the Keeter Training Center.

[Missing photo]

Name: (real name preferred)

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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.

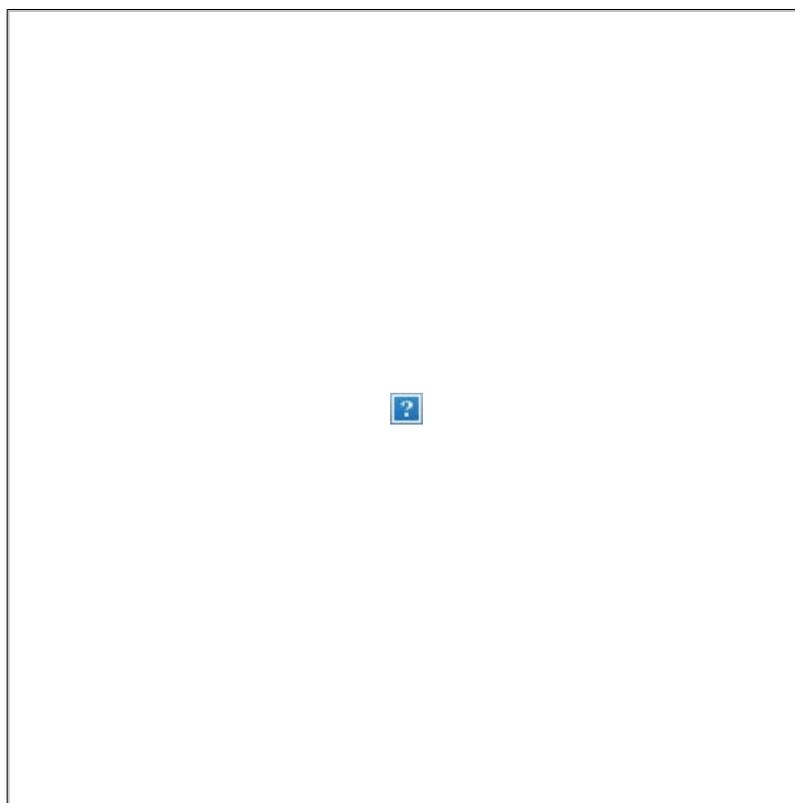
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

Profile of Cary Fire Chief Allan Cain

04/01/10 105 W, 1 I - + 5 - 6

The [CaryCitizen](#), a news blog that's been publishing since July 2009, recently posted a profile of Cary Fire Chief Allan Cain. He hails from Cumberland County, where he first served in the Cumberland Road Fire Department in High School. He was a member of the Fayetteville Fire Department, worked for Cumberland County as Asst. Emergency Management Coordinator, and was hired as Dunn's first paid Fire Chief in 1989. He's served with the Cary Fire Department since 1994, where he started as Deputy Fire Chief. Great forced-perspective photo below by Hal Goodtree, as well! [Read the article.](#)



Hal Goodtree/ CaryCitizen photo

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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Raleigh Mayor Wants Tougher Restrictions on Pine Straw

04/01/10 188 W - + 10 - 6

[WRAL reported yesterday](#) that the Raleigh Fire Department recommended Wednesday that the city pass an ordinance "prohibiting the use of pine straw within 10 feet of any combustible structure" in the wake of last week's three-alarm fire that destroyed three homes on Armadale Lane. Investigators cited dry grass and landscape materials as a factor in the fast-spreading fire, that was fed by gusty winds. They also noted that the close proximity of the buildings as another factor in the rapid spread.

Fire Marshal Rusty Styons submitted a report on the matter on Wednesday, to the Fire Chief and command staff for review. The report cites similarities to the Pine Knoll Townes fire of 2007, that started and spread in Pine Straw. The report also surveys other local and statewide municipalities that have or do not have similar ordinances.

Mayor Charles Meeker expressed the opinion that recommendation should restrict pine straw 20 to 30 feet from buildings, and he'll ask city council for an ordinance. The city council will address the issue Tuesday. [Read the Fire Marshal's report.](#) Or [read the accompanying story.](#)

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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April Fools

04/01/10 65 W - + 10 - 8

Discussion topic for the day. Today is [April Fools Day](#). Though tempting to discuss pranks and amusements therein-- but not hazing, please not hazing!-- let's talk about levity. How have you used humor to break the ice, dispel the stress, and keep a barrier from the profession's harder and harsher aspects? Or, if you prefer, share appropriately funny stories. What say you?

Ha Ha Ha

We had a new Chief in training at the recruit academy on April Fools 2008.

His joke to the recruits who were in formation was that with budget cuts, two recruits would loose their jobs to save the City Money. He advised us to vote on who it would be and let him know at the end of the day.

We were so stressed with the academy that we forgot it was April 1st!

ha ha ha ha ha

What a mess. Luckily our Class Leader was such exceptional character, he offered to quit before voting for any of us! B M, Ill always respect you for that!

Not telling :) - 04/01/10 - 09:05

From a reader, goats clear fire breaks for Kern County FD in California: <http://www.bakersfield.com/news/local/x2..>

Legeros - 04/02/10 - 07:37

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Crash Trucks, Water Cannons, Mothballs

04/02/10 216 W - + 8 - 2

Midwest Airlines has returned to Raleigh-Durham International Airport. This morning's *News & Observer* has a photo by Takaaki Iwabu showing CFR 2 and CFR 3 spraying a salute the first returning flight. The airport fire department, named Raleigh-Durham International Airport Emergency Services, has three such trucks. They're [Oshkosh T-3000 crash trucks](#), delivered in 2000. Two with two axles, and the big three-axle monster. They replaced older, refurbished Walter rigs that dated to 1970s.

The accompanying [News & Observer article](#) has the headline "At RDU, the Water Cannons Come Out of Mothballs." Lest anyone think that those crash trucks are remotely underutilized, let's correct that perception. The airport rigs roll several times daily. Based on scanner traffic, it's a regular cycle of airport alerts, fire alarms, fuel spills, and other calls. Along with EMS responses, though those are handled-- if memory serves-- by their mini-pumper, a 2005 Ford/4 Guys. Readers, please expand as needed. The gang at the airport doesn't get nearly enough visibility compared to the other fire departments in the area.

And that's the best that we've got for your Friday morning. Playing language police to the *News & Observer*. What can we say, it's been a busy week at Blog Central.

[Missing photo]

Takaaki Iwabu / News & Observer photo

I herd someone say last year that they ran over 1000 calls.

079 - 04/02/10 - 08:31

I think the "mothballs" comment was referring to the salute(last one in 2007), but agree that it could have been worded better!

JA - 04/02/10 - 08:47

I've never heard of this type of salute before...how far does this practice date to??

HS - 04/02/10 - 09:57

@HS—The "Water Cannon Salute" is usually reserved for situations where (a) a longtime pilot is retiring (famous pilot Captain Sullenberger received the treatment at the beginning and end of his last flight) or (b) when an airline starts providing service at an airport.

Wikipedia has a limited article about the practice:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water_salut..

Hope this helps!

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 04/02/10 - 10:38

I forgot to mention: Capt'n Sullenberger's last flight landed at Charlotte KCLT Airport. ATC Audio of the flight can be found at Liveatc.net (Along with audio from hundreds of other interesting flights).

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 04/02/10 - 12:44

I remember RDU CFR doing this when the Hurricanes returned from winning the Eastern Conference Championship.

CFP 7021 - 04/03/10 - 10:04

I understand thy also do it for members of the military who die for their country.

Rob Mitchell - 04/03/10 - 10:23

Let me start with a word of thanks to all those who posted comments. The members of the RDU Airport Emergency Services certainly

appreciate the kind words. I would however like to make the following corrections to comments made so far. First we do have three aircraft firefighting apparatus, two, CFR 2 and 3, are Oshkosh T-1500s, while CFR 4 is a T-3000. RDU ES responded to over 1900 calls last calander year, and they consisted as described above, alerts, fire alarms, medical calls, fuel spills, odor investigations, the list goes on. The last water arch, as we like to refer to them was done, less then a month ago, for a returning hero. We perform these on a fairly regular basis, for military flights, retiring pilots, or as in this case, airline sponsored events. We are certainly proud of our involvement, and thank all of you who took notice.

The commentor is a Deputy Chief on the ES department

Joe - 04/03/10 - 11:38

1900 calls is alot for a single station dept. What are the staffing levels for trucks and do you meet or exceed iso guidelines? it would seem you would need at least 6 firefighters and two line officer (Lt.,Capt.)plus one district chief, and one ADIM. Chief. And a fire inspector maybe. that would put you at 10-11 personnel per shift. not bad

Firehose - 04/04/10 - 22:30

RDU operates with 6 staff per day (1-Deputy Chief, 1-Captain, 1-Lieutenant and 3-Engineers) plus Fire Chief 8-5 M-F.

[Smoketamer] - 04/06/10 - 13:15

Not knowing some of the updates, but, unless it has changed since I worked at RDU, ISO does not apply to airport CFR or ARFF departments. They fall under guidelines established by the FAA. And unless an ARFF chooses to get involved with 'structural' duties, then the FAA rules are all that apply. With the rules that applied during the 80s, we were required to have three trucks, based upon the formula that the FAA used at the time, which was based upon the length of the largest commercial aircraft that landed a specified number of times (seems like it was five or more). The rules specified we had to move so many gallons of water, so many gallons of foam concentrate, and so many pounds of dry chemical agent, to the mid-point of the farthest runway, in two or three minutes. Given the 'technology' of the day, we needed three trucks. We actually had four, so we could have been seen as exceeding the requirements. In concept, if all of that water, foam, and dry chemical could have been placed on one truck, we could have operated that way with a driver.

For a time when we became a full time fire department, we operated with three personnel per shift, one per truck. This satisfied the FAA requirements that each truck had to be capable of discharging at 80% capacity (or something like that) with only the driver on board. When we went to 24 hour shifts in the early 80s, we gained 2 per shift, which usually allowed four on duty due to sick and vacation leave.

There are a lot of CFR/ARFF departments across the country that operate like that with minimum equipment and manpower. Fortunately, those are few.

I am pretty sure that there have been some changes over the years, and Joe, or anyone else out at RDU, can update us.

DJ - 04/06/10 - 15:10

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'?

Good Luck to Garner EMS

04/03/10 266 W - + 9 - 5

In their meeting on Monday, county commissioners will discuss and perhaps decide the future of the EMS division of [Garner EMS & Rescue Squad](#). They're the private, non-profit corporation that provides EMS, rescue, and medical transport services in and around Garner. Organized in 1975 as the Garner-St. Mary's Rescue Squad, they're one of the four remaining "original squads" in Wake County, along with Apex EMS (okay, now merged with Apex Fire), Cary EMS, and Six Forks EMS.

[This Garner Citizen article published yesterday](#) has a good summary of their situation, and far better than this blogger is capable of providing. There's been some prior media coverage, here and there. The story hasn't really made many headlines. Guess that's par for the course, the machinery of emergency services isn't necessary newsworthy unless something really dramatic happens.

We haven't blogged about yet, either. When you (a.) know the people and parties involved, (b.) don't know the facts, and (c.) don't know what you don't know about the facts, the answer the seemingly easy. Stay your hand. Hold your tongue. (Seemingly easy. Even this short message is done with a heavy heart.)

Thus the best of wishes to our friends at Garner EMS.

The April 5 meeting of the Wake County Board of Commissioners is located in Room 700 on the 7th floor of the Wake County Courthouse. The meeting begins at 2:00 p.m. and is open to the public. The period for citizen comments to the board is from 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Share support as desired. But save dissection for somewhere else.

FYI, the County Commissioners will NOT be discussing the Garner EMS issue today. It has been removed from Agenda.

Note - 04/05/10 - 11:15

I have been told that this subject has been removed from the agenda of todays meeting. Any word?

Concerned Employee - 04/05/10 - 11:18

The Clerk to the Board advises in email inquiry that the County Manager will request its removal at the beginning of the meeting, as part of the approval of the agenda.

Presently, the agenda and supporting docs are still listed on the web site, <http://wake.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.p..>

Legeros - 04/05/10 - 12:28

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Just Say No

04/03/10 52 W - + 5 - 9

FireNews Editor-in-Chief Jeff Harkey (and proud owner of a residential sprinkler system, he notes) has blogged about the anti-sprinkler billboard being seen in South Carolina, and news of which has been making the rounds. [Read his blog posting](#) to learn more about this strangeness.

[Missing photo]

FireNews photo

One thing I have learned in my 51 years, add the term "required" to anything, any idea, no matter how good or whatever, and people will come out against it. Of course, it is their right, and I once raised my right hand and swore an oath to uphold that right.

DJ - 04/03/10 - 11:38

It is indeed unfortunate that society does not understand the importance of residential sprinklers, no matter what we do to educate the "public."

A.C. Rich - 04/03/10 - 17:48

The benefits of residential sprinklers are really a no-brainer. The HBASC might as well be saying: "we want to cause as much pain and suffering as possible to save our profits." I'm really beside myself in disbelief at this hyperbolic misrepresentation by the HBASC. Really sad.

BC - 04/04/10 - 11:39

It is indeed amazing how political and/or government perception (as DJ said) can affect the overall rationality issue. I can see how a reader that is not informed on the overall "fire problem" could see the sprinkler initiative as intrusive into some interpretation of "individual rights." As the Dems are in control now, it is probably a good time for the passage of residential sprinkler ordinances nationwide... due to less conservative views and the prominence of "big government." Not to discuss politics here, but our socio-political systems are fascinating.

A.C. Rich - 04/04/10 - 12:01

It's even more saddening that our safety as people hinges ultimately on politicians that can be bought. Trust me, when the time comes that I can afford to build my own house, if the state hasn't made residential sprinklers mandatory in new construction, I'll be adding the system to the build, along with stick-built roofs (no trusses) and no "engineered" beams. I'm into having as much time to get out and a way to help keep less of my investment from going up in flames as possible, along with keeping my firefighting brethren as safe as possible if they have to put my house out.

@DJ, I think, unfortunately, free speech tends to undermine what little common sense is out there. That and money.

Duda - 04/06/10 - 09:09

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Scanning

04/03/10 99 W - + 8 - 10

The objective: three simultaneous audio streams. City fire dispatch (VHF), county fire dispatch (VHF), and trunked talkgroups both VIPER and Cary (800mhz). The equipment: two VHF scanners for city and county fire, and one digital trunking scanner for talkgroups. Same configuration for base and mobile, each with three radios. The question: can three simultaneous streams be accomplished short of three separate radios? Sure, you can use Priority on a scanning radio, but that just lets one channel override a second. What other options are there? And why hasn't someone invented a radio that plays multiple channels at once?

Why hasn't someone invented a radio that plays multiple channels at once? Well you basically need 2 receivers in one case. As far as P25 Digital: both GRE & Uniden have to pay \$\$ to DVSI for each vocoder used in each scanner which is why digital capable radios cost around \$500. And that is just for one receiver. Could you imagine the cost for multiple receivers in one case? :-)

The answer is simple: More radios :-)

I usually only carry 2 with me: Yaesu VX-5r and Uniden BCD396XT. At home though I have the following:

- A Pro96 Digital scanner only on RPD
- A Uniden BCD996XT Monitoring Various Wake County & Federal Public Safety
- A Uniden BC895XLT Monitoring Various VHF/UHF Freqs
- A Radio Shack Pro 2037 Monitoring Various VHF/UHF Freqs
- A Uniden BC246T Monitoring Cary 800Mhz and various VIPER analog TGs (including NCSHP VIPER).
- A Pro95 Monitoring various analog VHF/UHF
- A Uniden BC3000xlt monitoring VHF/UHF
- An old Regency Base scanner only monitoring SHP Low Band VHF.

And even with all of the above I still miss stuff from time to time.

We are extremely lucky in NC to be able to monitor public safety at all.

When I am out and about I usually monitor the 3 locution alert VHF channels and RPD on my 396XT. That covers a good bit of anything interesting that may come up.

My Motto: You can never have too many radios :-)

—An old

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 04/03/10 - 17:27

One additional comment: For those licensed as Hams: Many Ham Handheld transceivers do have dual VHF/UHF Receivers in one radio which gives the capability to receive on 2 different VHF/UHF freqs at the same time. So in theory you could program Fire into one spot and EMS into another and be good to go.

It is just on the Trunking side that things get kind of tricky :-)

Uniden does have a Priority type of feature for Moto Systems in their latest scanners (XT Line) which allows a TG to be marked as Priority and if that TG becomes active the radio will switch to it even if the radio is parked on another TG on that system.

So I have all of the Wake Co Emergency TGs programmed in and if someone hits their emergency button my 396XT/996XT will immediately Switch over to their predetermined EMERG Talkgroup. Works pretty darn well.

Sorry to be so long winded Mike.

To sum up: We do the best we can with what is out there :-)

Happy (and safe) Monitoring to all!

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 04/03/10 - 17:49

Yeah, that's what I need, a ham radio. Looks like my latest dual mobile VHF arrangement is going to be a pair of side-by-side Regency low-profile crystal scanners from the late 1980s. They're workhorses. For trunking, my Pro-2096 is going to be mounted somehow, somewhere in my new Accord. Somehow. The dash construction in these things is tighter than a [insert colorful phrase as desired].

Legeros - 04/03/10 - 18:25

Yeah, my car has little to no room for radio mounting either. I usually just clip my BCD396XT to the visor with a rubber duck antenna and sit my Yaesu VX-5R in a drink holder.

I have been asked in the past many times if I would be willing to give a "Basics of scanning in Central NC" presentation somewhere in Wake Co.

Especially with the challenges involved with monitoring VIPER. I am willing if the demand is out there.

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 04/03/10 - 21:41

Marshall, I know I'd be willing to go to that kind of presentation.

Paul - 04/04/10 - 13:49

@Paul Thanks. I am gonna try to see if I can't put something together for sometime soon.

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 04/04/10 - 14:01

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.

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

Fire Station For Sale

04/03/10 79 W, 1 I - + 10 - 7

Here's a familiar building that's for sale. For decades same served the Yrac Fire Department, and most recently was operated as Western Wake Station 2. Comes with vast amount of concrete parking, an outside storage building, and a new roof. Plus more good memories than any place ought to have. Priced to move at \$310,000. Next question... who gets the siren still up on the pole? [View the sale listing.](#)



does the old western wake apparatus that a private collector owns and was storing there, also come with the building?

charlie - 04/03/10 - 14:53

I say put the siren up at WW St 1, bring a bit of the old life and memories from station 2 to the main station. Just a thought

oreps - 04/03/10 - 15:12

charlie, which piece would that be? the only rig in the house is P293, which will be sold in the near future but is still owned by the department. P297 was sold last year to Trap VFD, P196, R295 and B299 were moved to WW1 when WW2 was closed.

It would be awesome to put up the siren at WW1, on the antenna maybe!

shevais - 04/03/10 - 17:31

The new county contract says pagers are allowed but no sirens or some language to that effect. Not sure of actual wording

Apex Batt Chief - 04/03/10 - 19:39

Apex BC, is that the current contract or the one that is been worked on now?

Contractor - 04/03/10 - 20:21

That's the revised contract that's being worked on. "W. EMERGENCY ALERTING: The Fire Department agrees to rely only on the countywide alphanumeric and tone/voice paging systems for emergency alerting and response purposes."

Legeros - 04/03/10 - 20:30

Charlie, The private collector I think you are refering to is Dust. As shev said, it's waiting to be sold. You want it?

Fire Cat - 04/04/10 - 01:33

P293 is priced to sell! But isn't everything? It's a sad time for us indeed. Even though I've only been with the department for going on five

years, I miss going up there for lunch with the crew and meeting/training nights there. i know there are guys like Shevais and Matt Rehl that started when it was YRAC and have a lot of memories there that will thankfully never die. Traditions are set fast in the fire service, as is change. We don't have to like it, but it happens to the best of us.

Duda - 04/06/10 - 09:00

Actually Capt Gibbons has been a member of the department longer then Capt Rehl and has many more memories that thankfully will never die. If you are looking for old time members please refer to our good buddies Kermit Murph and Bona as they are the only active YRAC member still on Western Wake. And dont forget the lifetime firefighter of the quarter COUCH!!! And to the best of my recollection, Rehl and Shevais both started with volunteer responses to Station 1 in Raleigh... just an fyi for ya good buddy... Oh btw how much is 293 going for?

Ice Pop x 12 an hour - 04/07/10 - 09:40

Mr. Ice Pop speaks the truth, I was the last member to be voted onto Fairgrounds FD. The only active YRAC members are as above. Both Capt. Gibbons and Capt. Rehl were brought on after the merger. I did however split my volly responses between the two, and spent a lot of time at both. It will be a sad day when this house is finally gone.

shevais - 04/07/10 - 12:16

would like more info

cecil ([Email](#)) - 12/16/11 - 08:57

the station was sold to a private party a couple years ago and is no longer of any association with the department, although many, many memories remain!

shevais - 12/17/11 - 18:46

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preferred)
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When Pine Straw Burns

04/03/10 122 W, 1 I - + 9 - 5

This week, WTVD took a camera crew to Chapel Hill for a fire department demonstration on pine straw versus hardwood mulch. Both were set alight, and the straw burned fast and furious. Within three minutes, a bale's worth of the popular landscaping material was completely engulfed. The mulch, meanwhile, was still a small, smoldering fire. Three years ago, Chapel Hill was the first in the area to impose restrictions on pine straw. Last week, the material was cited as a contributing factor to the fire that destroyed three homes and damaged four others in the Highland Creek subdivision. City officials are now seeking restrictions on pine straw within certain distances from combustible structures.

[Watch the video report.](#)



Name: (real name preferred)

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Web Site: (optional)

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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'?

Occupants Escape Vehicle Fire in Raleigh

04/03/10 45 W, 1 I - + 6 - 7

Good dramatic headline on [this vehicle fire story by WRAL](#), complete with a couple of viewer photos. Several people were inside same, then exited. Er, escaped. That is indeed one fully-involved vehicle fire.



Mike Hanna/WRAL photo

Name: (real name preferred)

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Web Site: (optional)

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Yes

No

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

State Run Fire Departments?

04/04/10 183 W, 6 I - + 6 - 8

Discussion or perhaps trivia topic for the day. What fire departments or fire suppression agencies are operated by the state of North Carolina? Couple come to mind. Butner Public Safety. North Carolina Division of Forest Resources. Who else? Does the North Carolina Air National Guard staff their fire apparatus in Charlotte, Raleigh-Durham, Salisbury, etc?



We can expand our question to include state agencies with fire apparatus, though not necessarily staffed. Such as, say, the Highway Patrol training center on Tryon Road, which has a mini-pumper. Or, say, the skid-mounted units that rangers operate at Umstead Park and other facilities.



Lee Wilson / Mike Legeros photo

Looking back, there are former state-run fire departments to note. Broughton Hospital FD in Goldsboro-Morganton (shown below in the 1920s, though they operated through the 1960s). Caledonia Prison Farm FD in Tillery. Cherry Hospital in Goldsboro. McCain Prison Hospital FD in Aberdeen.



Courtesy Broughton Hospital

Even the North Carolina Zoo had a pumper (and a department?), a 1961 International from Six Forks Road FD here in Wake County.



Updated with photos and graphics. That really improves the posting, don't you think?

Legeros - 04/04/10 - 09:05

Mike, one minor correction... Broughton Hospital is in Morganton, not Goldsboro.

Barrett - 04/05/10 - 15:21

I wouldn't necessarily count the NC Parks' units in this. All rangers and maintenance staff receive some sort of fire-suppression training, but are not geared toward that. Now, we *do have a Burn Boss and fire crew that actually *starts fires. They do "prescribed burns" across the state to mimic the natural effects of, say, lightning-initiated forest fires et al, that would burn the underbrush and seasonal debris, allowing the woods and its ruminants to flourish. but I guess since they have a water tank, pump, and hose reel (and some indian packs), sure.

Duda - 04/06/10 - 08:51

You are correct about the Air Guard. Salisbury is exclusively staffed by NC Air Guard firefighters. Charlotte Station 17 has Charlotte City FFs for the structural engine, one blaze truck, and a command pickup. The Guard staffs at least one blaze truck at station 17 and station 41 only has Guard FFs for for the time being during the daylight hours(Blaze 41).

BFD1151 - 04/07/10 - 23:47

Name: (real name preferred)
E-mail: (optional)
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No

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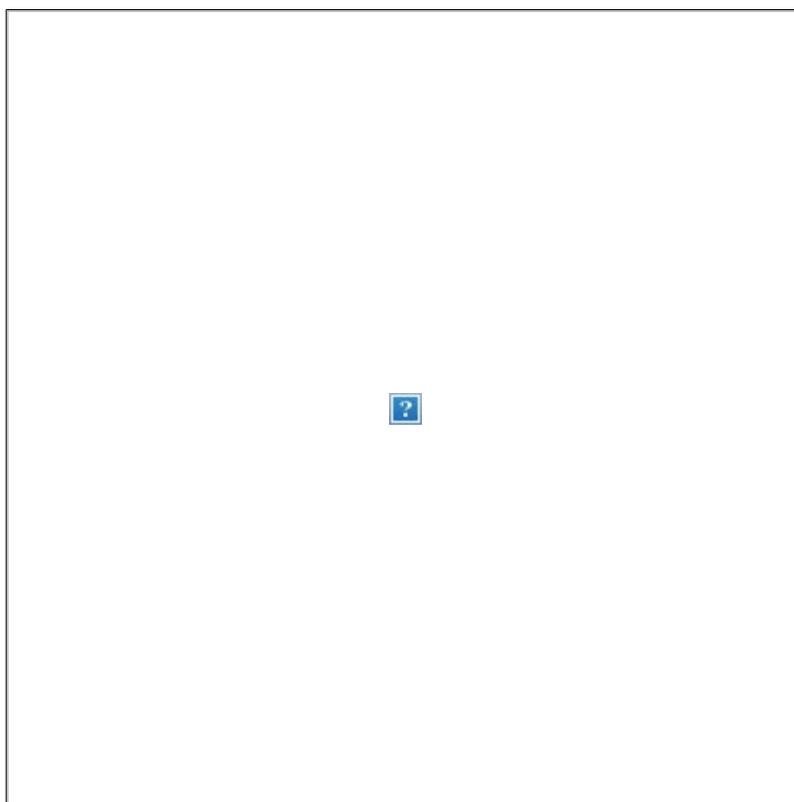
Multipatient Medical Event Tests Wake County EMS

04/04/10 130 W, 1 I - + 10 - 5

EMSResponder.com has [posted an excellent article](#) on the February 13 multipatient medical event at the Sheraton Capital Center Hotel in downtown Raleigh. Recall that the Saturday morning incident saw dozens of high school-aged students complaining of nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

The first call was reported at 9:26 a.m. Within a half-hour, three alarm level's worth of medical resources had been dispatched, and a triage area had been established in the hotel. By mid-afternoon, medics had evaluated some 140 patients, and treated 40 of them.

Authors Brent Myers, Skip Kirkwood, and Jon Olson (MD1, Chief 100, Chief 200, respectively) provide ample details on the original call, the operations that commenced, and the lessons learned afterward. [Read the article](#). Or see the [incident photos](#).



Mike Legeros photo

And can we have some respectful fun with the alphabet soup after the author's names? MD, MPH, FACEP, MS, JD, EMT-P, EFO, CMO, MBA/MHA, EMT-P, etc. Here's what I am thinking for myself: Mike Legeros, FP, FH, FB, HSG, ASA.

- Fire Photographer
- Fire Historian
- Fire Blogger
- Hawaiian Shirt Guy
- Avowed Smart A\$\$

I know, say good night, Mike.

Legeros - 04/04/10 - 14:40

I know those initials all mean a lot of hard work. I have a few after my name as well. And to the unknowing public, they are impressive, although they usually have no idea what they mean after MD, and maybe the JD. But to the people that are in the know.....

Making my way... - 04/04/10 - 18:51

...oh yeah, that much we can surmise. Hard work, and lots of it.

Legeros - 04/04/10 - 18:53

I've always wondered which "alphabet" combos were worthy of using regularly. Obviously, MD, EFO, and others are major achievements and are worthy of use. On the other hand, some folks use ones that nobody knows and/or aren't that hard to get. I paid a fee one time, took a test, and received a letter from the testing agency that I could add letters to end of my name because I passed. I didn't think it was that big of a deal.

Wondering - 04/05/10 - 08:08

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This Morning's Major Fire in Clayton

04/05/10 110 W, 1 I - + 13 - 8

Commercial structure under construction in [3100 block of Vinson Road](#). Fully-involved on arrival, with roof already collapsed. Dispatched about 3:50 a.m. Clayton and Wilson Mills fire departments, Clayton and Johnston EMS, plus others? Building approximately 15,000 square-feet and about 60 days away from opening as a day care. Authorities say same is suspicious, and it's less than a mile from the three houses that burned less month. Also across the street from school recently set on fire. Clayton police and SBI investigating. Aerial photo from WTVD, and enhanced using auto-level mode of PhotoShop Elements. Sources: [NBC17](#), [WRAL](#), [WTVD](#). Readers add additional details as desired.



WTVD photo

Vinson rd is shut down still as of 8am. may be a while before it re opens. hope the authorities find the person or people responsible for these fires and punish them.

charlie - 04/05/10 - 08:05

garner sent its ladder truck.

charlie - 04/05/10 - 13:59

Initial call was to Wilsons Mills FD for an unknown type fire in the area and upgraded to a structure fire which then brought Clayton FD. During the incident it was figured the area was one of the "pockets" thats in city limits. Units on scene included WMFD E3, E4, E5, R1, and C1. CFD units included E4, E5, FS1, C1, C3, C4, BC1, BC3. Clayton EMS 43(?) Johnston County EMS 3 (Supervisor). Garner Ladder 1 was special called later in the incident. Numerous law enforcement personnel/agencies.

JCFF - 04/06/10 - 18:06

Name: (real name preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes

Yesterday's House Fire in Apex

04/06/10 176 W, 1 I - + 7 - 14

Below is an [aerial photo from WTVD](#) of yesterday's major house fire at [314 Grassy Point Road](#) in Apex. The two-story dwelling with 3,412 square-feet was well-involved on arrival, with extension to the homes on either side of the structure. Dispatched about 3:00 p.m. Units on scene included Apex L3, L4, E2, R1, B1, C5, C1; Holly Springs E3; Swift Creek E3; Fairview E3, E8; EMS 41, D1, T1.

Some responded as they cleared from a major woods fire on O'Kelly Chapel Road at Highway 55. Several Wake and Durham county units worked that one, which was reported after 1:00 p.m. The forestry service even sent a spotter plane, along with plow and brush units. Hot, dry, and nasty with all that pollen. [Legeros took some photos of the aftermath.](#)

And then this morning, Apex is still on the scene of another fire, at ~~what sounds like a transformer~~ an electrical substation. They've deployed their foam trailer, and have other companies on scene. We'll get more information on that one, later.



WTVD photo

Hey Mike... what the crap is a NC Forestry Service "spotter plan?" I know when you blog, you get excited...

CJS ([Email](#)) - 04/06/10 - 06:39

Fairview E1 responded not E3, Holly Springs E1 also responded, also Morrisville E2 and Fuquay E5 that I heard get paged out to go to Apex for coverage.

079 - 04/06/10 - 10:39

Apex C6, Engine 1, Swift Creek Battalion 27, and some fairview chiefs responded as well

[AFDEplorer] - 04/06/10 - 15:08

This was a call that it was fortunate to have both Aerials first in on. The devices were put into quick operation on fire attack and exposure protection on neighboring houses. With the size of the street and close neighborhood if an Engine had been first in even leaving front for aerial would have been difficult.

My opinion only

Apex Batt Chief - 04/06/10 - 21:33

Train, train, train on bread & butter ops and a focus on true truck work will get engine guys to understand the reasoning behind leaving room in the front for the ladder (can add hose, can't add ladder). A ladder company and its' properly trained crew is an offensive weapon when used

correctly, being in position to flow is just one piece of the puzzle. Just my opinion as well....

Silver - 04/07/10 - 01:03

On calls in Apex that both a ladder and engine are dispatched, does the ladder roll first?

Is it time in this world to start letting ladders roll ahead of engines? Or would such heresy just be utterly rejected?

Legeros - 04/07/10 - 07:25

Good point Silver! A well trained ladder co. is a huge force multiplier on the fireground! And as noted in this and several different threads over time-train! We Eng. Co. folks need to keep in the forefront of our planning ladder access and placement. Their skills are much needed, and you never know when you might need the big water. As for ladders rolling first-kind of difficult to accomplish when one ladder rolls with 4 or 5 different companies. I personally think its more of a training issue with the company officers-both Capt. and Lt. So there's one more opinion...

goose - 04/07/10 - 08:54

I know in Apex at station 3 the ladder company there is the only truck staffed-Ladder 3. At station 1 and 2 the engine is staffed and at station 4 the engine and ladder are both staffed.

079 - 04/07/10 - 10:07

@ Legeros; I know in the older days when I was an officer there, the paid guys would roll an engine then the old ladder (now sold to a dept. at the beach) would go with vollies. The paid guys would lay-in if they saw they had a job. This was a different time in the department though, and if memory serves correct it was when we were split. Chief Reavis, who was the vollie Chief, was from Prince William, VA which runs aggressive truck companies and he wanted that here as well.

@079; True, but someone has to perform truck ops. For smaller departments (and combos), if it's a matter of training your entire membership, then saying the 2nd due company will perform truck work, regardless if they're an engine, ladder or rescue, then so be it. But, someone has to do the truck work!!

Silver - 04/08/10 - 09:48

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

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Yes
No

Comment:

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

Council Appoints Task Force To Study Lightner Safety Center Issues

04/06/10 131 W - + 5 - 5

Mayor Charles Meeker and three other Raleigh City Council members will serve on a special task force to study issues related to the proposed Clarence E. Lightner Public Center. The council voted 7-1 today to establish the task force, which is charged with developing a list of items for an independent consultant to study regarding the public safety center, such as possible sites, design, cost savings, and functionality and organization of the facility. Council members voted to establish the special task force after City Manager Russell Allen presented an alternate funding plan for the Clarence E. Lightner Public Safety Center at today's meeting. The proposal would not raise the City's property tax rate.

[Read entire press release.](#)

would there actually be a fire station on the ground floor of the building and if so how many bays would it have.

crs - 04/06/10 - 20:45

I would vote for that...it makes only sense station 1 and 3 need to be replaced. And maybe the fire department can have more than one floor that way,

Concerned Raleigh Citizen - 04/06/10 - 21:36

Wouldn't doubt if that happened for an engine and L-4, because the Central Firehouse sits on a hot piece of land. I could see it being used as a way to offset some funds, selling the Central Firehouse property that is.

I do, however, think the days of two engine companies in a house are going to be a thing of the past. I had heard a few months back that Engine 3 would eventually be relocated to someplace closer to MLK Blvd. Who knows how many years that will be...

Silver - 04/06/10 - 23:18

The City Council needs to get the cost per square foot down to reasonable levels to even consider moving forward. The County building is in the \$170 per sq ft range and the Raleigh plan was well over \$400 per sq ft. Be realistic and smart with our tax dollars, don't waste them on frivolous expenses! and it doesn't sound like a good idea to combine all of our public safety resources in one building...

taxpayer - 04/07/10 - 00:15

The original concept of the public safety center included a fire station on the ground floor, if memory serves. Going even farther back, to the early 1990s, Fire Chief Sherman Pickard once proposed combining Station 1 and 3 (along with Station 5 and 6) to cost-effective effect. Nobody reacted favorably to that one. I helped the cause with a letter to the editor (or maybe it was to City Council?) during the fray.

As for Central Station and its property value therein, I have always heard that that particular parcel is perhaps too small (with required setbacks) for effective commercial development. Now, add the adjoining building, which is a section of old Union Station (built 1890), and then you've got a really prime piece of real state. About that building: <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..>

Legeros - 04/07/10 - 07:22

Make it a school and a race issue and it will pass...

former wake co. resident - 04/08/10 - 23:16

The present plans do not have any apparatus bays. As for costs, Lightner was purpose designed to meet critical engineering and redundancy standards that reflect the need for security, stability, and redundancy required for the 9-1-1 center, EOC, and the City of Raleigh data center. Check the tabs on new fire station construction and see what you get. Comparing different buildings without a complete understanding of the project scope and specifications is like saying that one department paid ten times more for their new rig than their neighbor's without mentioning that one was a quint and the other a brush truck.

RWECC - 04/17/10 - 10:09

How to Photograph a Ceremony in an Apparatus Bay

04/06/10 276 W - + 6 - 14

The March 27 ceremony at Station 16, honoring four firefighters with awards for heroism, presented an interesting set of photographic challenges. The setting: regular Raleigh apparatus bay, with projection screen, display board, and several chairs aligned perpendicular to bay doors. Strong ambient light from bay windows. Weaker florescent light from overhead. Composition challenged by power cord hanging from ceiling (for projector), and some less-attractive areas. Fitness equipment in one corner clutters some shots; the rear wall-- a metal extension of the building-- is rather dark and scary-looking.

Thus, the best direction for pointing the camera was back to front. With the display board in the foreground, left of frame. The patch graphic prominent. That added immediate identification and branding to the photo. Raleigh Fire Department. Bay windows in the background, and right of frame also added context. And they're easily recognized at lower resolutions. Between the patch and the windows, it's pretty easy to identify the setting as a fire station.

For filling the shadows and improving the lighting, an external flash with funky bounce attachment worked well. (That plastic cup is a Gary Fong Lightsphere. Or tip jar, if you prefer. Large bills only, please.) High ISO setting on the camera, of course. And lots of shots, to compensate for closed eyes or funny poses. The results were okay. The should've, could've list includes the medal presentations. Should've asked each recipient to hold that pose a little longer. Or perhaps restaged later. Need to remember for next time. But don't we all. Life as learning lesson. [See the photos from the ceremony.](#)

[Missing photo]
Mike Legeros photo

why dont you ever do any blogs for christopher king of ncfireart. he has done some fantastic artwork for some fallen FF in raleigh just a idea. He is well known across wake county.

rdfff10 ([Web Site](#)) - 04/06/10 - 23:11

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'?

Super Ambulance

04/07/10 91 W, 3 I - + 12 - 9

The latest addition to Mike's die-cast collection is this Diapet replica of a Japanese Super Ambulance, such as the 2003 Fuso Mobile Casualty Treatment Vehicle serving the [Tokyo Fire Department](#) and shown below in small photo. Click to see more from [ambulance-photos.com](#). The scale is 1/54. The working features including opening doors, extending body sections, and detachable rear steps/ramp. The model joins numerous replicas of [Japanese fire and emergency vehicles](#) on display at Blog Central, e.g. the Legeros Man Cave. They're crazy fun. Click to enlarge:



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

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Charlotte's New Rescues

04/07/10 87 W, 1 I - + 10 - 5

The Charlotte Fire Department has taken delivery of two new rescues. Built by SVI on Spartan chassis. Not in service yet. They'll replace twin Spartan/Saulsbury units from 1998/1999, which replaced twin Pierce Lance units from 1988, which replaced Ford Econoline vans. The rescue companies are housed at Station 3 and Station 10. Thanks to Jeff Harkey for the info and passing along the photo. We'll surely see better and higher-res pictures soon enough, and even if our name isn't Shirley.



Now that's a heavy rescue....good luck to the Queen City with their new rides.

Silver - 04/08/10 - 08:46

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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North Carolina Fallen Firefighter Foundation Memorial Service, Saturday, May 1

04/07/10 176 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

The names of seven fallen firefighters will be added to the North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Memorial in a ceremony on Saturday, May 1. The memorial service at Nash Square in downtown Raleigh starts at 1:00 p.m. This is the fifth annual ceremony. The event is preceded by a 10:00 a.m. parade of fire apparatus from departments representing the fallen members. See this [participant information](#), and the [parade route](#).



The memorial lists the names of 216 members of the state's fire service, and whose supreme sacrifices date to 1902. This year's honored:

- James Melville Jones, North Carolina Forestry Service, 4/17/72
- Levi Henry Faulkner, Farmville Fire Department, 5/29/75
- Willis Henry Vandiford, Bell Arthur Fire Department, 3/21/78
- William Gray Parsons, Millers Creek Fire Department, 2/1/09
- Gregory Carroll Cooke, Salem District Fire Department, 3/21/09
- Matthew Douglas Tramel, Pembroke Fire Department, 6/5/09
- Jimmy Lee Davis Sr., White Oak Fire Department, 12/10/09

Visit the [North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Foundation web site](#) for more information.

Or [read this related history](#) of mine, from a few years back.

The Wake & District Pipe Band (www.ForOurFallen) and Tir na nOg (www.tnnirishpub.com) will be hosting a pre-memorial service toast to honor our fallen comrades on Friday, 30 April 2010 at 9:00 pm (218 South Blount Street in Raleigh).

Joe Brady ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 04/10/10 - 02:29

Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

This Morning's Accident on I-40 in Orange County

04/08/10 52 W, 1 I - + 6 - 4

[WTVD has posted some pictures](#) of this morning's accident on I-40 near mile marker 268 in Orange County, involving a tandem tractor-trailer and another trailer. The resulting explosion and fire brought numerous fire units to the scene. More details as they're available.



WTVD photo

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

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Yes
No

Comment:

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Zebulon Station 2 on Drawing Boards

04/08/10 96 W - + 7 - 7

[FireNews](#) finds this *Eastern Wake News* article about the Zebulon Fire Department's plans for a second fire staton. Construction is scheduled for next year at a cost of \$2.03 million. The location is Green Pace Road. The approximately 5,000 square-foot facility will have two bays, and include sleeping areas for 24-hour staffing. The town hopes to receive funding from the county and other sources to pay for the station. The station is needed for projected residential and commercial growth north of Highway 64/264, and to maintain the town's insurance rating. [Read the entire article.](#)

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

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Drill at Pope Air Force Base, 1968

04/08/10 220 W, 1 I - + 14 - 3

Here's another *Hose & Nozzle* magazine cover photo, from the March-April 1968 issue. The photo is courtesy of Pope Air Force Base, and shows a drill that was conducted for the Department of Community Colleges. The their A/V department also recorded the drill, the article reported, for possible use statewide as a training aid.

The exercise utilized a salvaged [C-119 Flying Boxcar](#) centered in a 5,000 square-foot pit, and with 1,500 gallons of contaminated [JP-4 jet fuel](#) expanded over the area. Eighteen firefighters and five pieces of apparatus practiced suppression and rescue of five simulated victims inside the wreckage.

Pictured on the right was the largest firefighting vehicle of the Air Force at the time, the Type P-2. Same was equipped with a 1,000 GPM roof turret, with an effective range of 175 feet, the article notes. With all discharge opens used, the trucks' entire 2,500 gallons of agent could be discharged in less than two minutes. Are any still in service in the Carolinas?

Names mentioned in the article include Pope AFB Fire Chief B. F. Barrow, State Supervisor of Fire Service Training Keith Phillippe, Chief of Audio Visual Branch Rowland Roy, and area consultant Calvin Beck. That's likely the same Beck who served as Cary's first paid fire chief. Click to enlarge:



Hose & Nozzle photo

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Durham Emergency Responders Use 3-D Image Technology

04/10/10 133 W - + 6 - 4

WRAL reports on technology now being used by the [Durham Emergency Communications Center](#) to create three-dimensional aerial images of a caller's exact location. The software is named [Pictometry](#) and offers a detailed map and as many as 12 different angles of any property, building, highway, or other feature in Durham County. For example, dispatchers can guide firefighters on the locations of electrical wires or other obstacles to scene access. The software was funded through the state chapter of the Emergency Number Association, which received a federal appropriation to implement same. The remaining cost of installation is being funded through a 911 surcharge added by the center. [Read the story](#). Or the [longer press release](#). Cool stuff, such the company's [fire department application](#). Wonder if Durham's installation includes same?

Raleigh is in the process of getting this software as well.

911 guy - 04/11/10 - 15:45

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Blue Honda Accord

04/10/10 104 W, 1 I - + 10 - 4

The Blogmobile has been upgraded with a 2010 Honda Accord EX sedan, colored royal blue pearl. Manual transmission, moon roof, and more. Replaced a well-used 2001 Honda Accord EX sedan, colored burgundy. Traded that one with 213,640 miles. It replaced a Ford Taurus (royal blue), which replaced a Ford Temp (burgundy), which replaced a Ford Mustang (royal blue). See a pattern here? Still working on the scanner install, but have mounted one antenna. Might even keep the thing clean this time. That's what Mrs. Blogger wants, at least. Coming soon to a station or scene near you.



You can't beat a Honda. Good car! (I have a 97 Accord)

AB - 04/10/10 - 17:35

"It's got a cop motor, a 440 cubic inch plant, it's got cop tires, cop suspensions, cop shocks. It's a model made before catalytic converters so it'll run good on regular gas."

Elwood - 04/10/10 - 20:07

...fix the cigarette lighter.

Legeros - 04/10/10 - 20:08

"It's a hundred and six miles to Chicago. We got a full tank of gas, half a pack of cigarettes, it's dark, and we're wearing sunglasses."

Duda - 04/19/10 - 09:40

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Up, Up, and Away

04/11/10 118 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

Yesterday afternoon in Sanford, at a [Wings of Carolina Flying Club](#) event, North Carolina pilot Jonathan Trappe launched himself into the air in a specialized cluster-balloon chair. His accompanying equipment? Two-way radios, breathing oxygen, parachute, altitude encoder, GPS, and emergency locator beacon. As [this WRAL story](#) reports, by 9 p.m. he was floating over Pittsboro. By 6:15 a.m. this morning, he was northwest of Goldsboro. He reached 5,000 feet at one point. He's presently north of Freemont, north of Goldsboro. He's due to land, or perhaps has landed. [Track his flight on this Google map](#). Or read more about him on [ClusterBalloon.com](#). Or [read the original WRAL story](#).



James Whitt/WRAL photo

I bet he had fun crossing RDU airspace. But he was there about 5.15 this morning, so assuming there's not many flights at that time it was probably easier than if he'd arrived at noon

Paul - 04/11/10 - 10:41

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

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Yes
 No

Comment:

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Yarborough Hotel

04/11/10 224 W, 2 I - + 9 - 10

One of the city's biggest fires in the twentieth century was the [Yarborough Hotel](#) in the 300 block of Fayetteville Street. The four-story structure, built in 1852 and about 46,500 square-feet, burned on July 3, 1928. The building contained the regionally famous Yarborough Hotel, as well as numerous stores. The hotel also served as the Governor's Mansion at the end of That Recent Unpleasantness. After General Sherman occupied the Governor's Palace at the southern end of Fayetteville Street, the returning head of state refused to stay there.

The fire started in the basement of an elevator shaft, and quickly spread through the block-long building. The entire Raleigh Fire Department responded, along with Durham and Smithfield engines. Fifteen streams, 7,200 feet of hose, and 750,000 gallons of water were used. The 1:20 p.m. was transmitted from Box 314, No injuries, and but a single piece of equipment damaged, one ladder run over by an automobile. [Here's a good picture of the scene](#). Several were taken that day. Still pending is a detailed narrative from Mr. Historian. Memo to self: do that some time.

Below is a Yarborough Hotel room key, bought on eBay a couple years ago. It reads: Yarborough House, Raleigh, N.C. - If carried away return unsealed by mail, postage 8 cents - [Room number] 21.



Pardon my eyes, Mike, but that looks like "Postage 3 cents".

Duda - 04/19/10 - 09:38

I also have a motel key from the Yarborough Hotel plus some other items. Very neat !!

Robert Estep ([Email](#)) - 05/27/11 - 17:07

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Volunteers

04/11/10 79 W, 1 I - + 5 - 5

Bay Leaf Fire Department at house fire at [2105 Millpine Drive](#). Car 1 arriving at a two-story, wood-frame dwelling with 2,369 square-feet. Fire showing through roof. Pumper 251 first apparatus on scene. Interior attack into attic. Water point and drop tank prepared. Fire controlled prior to water shuttle ops. Units on scene included P251, P366, P122, L25, A12, C1, C12, EMS 122, EMS 12, D4. [Preliminary photos by Legeros posted](#). More later from both Mike and Lee.



Good job!

ab - 04/12/10 - 10:32

Indeed – and a great group of people too!!

A.C. Rich - 04/13/10 - 18:55

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

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Along with Neighbor Kali Burns, Who was Dressed as a Gorilla

04/12/10 102 W, 1 I - + 9 - 5

Best caption ever, as found in a [New Hampshire fire story](#), as found on a Facebook posting. "Firefighters wrap up at the scene of a fire at 15 M. St. in Hampton this morning, where a home was gutted by two fires this morning. Right, Wayne McGowen, who was sleeping in the basement of the house when it caught fire, watches firefighters at the scene along with neighbor Kali Burns, who was dressed as a gorilla." Double-you tee eff, indeed. Great reader comments, too.



Jason Schreiber, Union Leader photo

Wow, Ummm...I don't know what to say...I am kind of speechless. Glad all humans & primates are ok. :-)

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 04/13/10 - 20:35

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

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Ladders by Lee

04/13/10 59 W, 2 I - + 8 - 7

[Lee Wilson recently posted](#) a pair of nicely-posed ladder truck photos, if you haven't seen them. Below is Wake Forest Ladder 1 and Raleigh Ladder 5. The former is a 2006 Pierce Dash platform, 95-feet. The latter is a 2009 Pierce Arrow XT platform, 105-foot. Click to enlarge both. He is the master of such shots.



Lee Wilson photos

Mike,
The later is a 100' rear mount platform not a 105'. Please note the length is at the base of platform.
stretch - 04/13/10 - 10:24

That would be why it says 100' just below the Pierce logo on the bucket :)
Paul - 04/13/10 - 11:12

As always darn good pics Lee!

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 04/13/10 - 21:06

Beautiful Trucks. Looks like North Carolina is set.

Unique Christmas Stockings ([Web Site](#)) - 04/15/10 - 10:22

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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Wilmington's Empie Park Fire Station To Be Replaced

04/14/10 130 W, 1 I - + 12 - 4

Earlier this week, [FireNews found this StarNews article](#) about Wilmington's Empie Park fire station, also known as Station 2. The two-bay station at [3403 Park Avenue](#) was built in 1965, and has been outgrown by the [Wilmington Fire Department](#). There isn't enough bay space, so an EMS unit is parked outside. There are no separate dorms, the article notes, so women firefighters can't work there past 10:00 p.m. (!) The facility also has had mechanical problems in recent years, from sewer problems to termites to mold. Last week, the city took the first step toward replacing the station, and awarded a design contract for a new, three-bay facility. The replacement will be built on the same lot. [Read the entire article.](#)



Ken Blevins/Star-News photo

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Resident and Pet

04/15/10 34 W, 1 I - + 8 - 3

One resident and a pet. Self-evacuated from an apartment building. Nice reminder of the reason for being. Preserving life and property. End of sermon.



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.

Fuquay-Varina Station 1

04/16/10 63 W, 1 I - + 7 - 6

Lee Wilson recently photographed Fuquay-Varina Fire Station 1, where additions and renovations were recently completed. Added to the building on the left side was space including a lobby, kitchen, classroom, administrative offices, and storage space. Renovated on the right side of the building were sleeping quarters for both Fuquay-Varina firefighters and Wake County EMS personnel. [See more photos.](#)



Lee Wilson photo

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.

Garner Station 4

04/16/10 36 W, 1 I - + 10 - 6

Lee Wilson also recently snapped a shot of Garner Fire Station 4, quickly rising at [125 Spaceway Court](#). The three-bay facility will be a joint fire and EMS facility. Opens in November.



Lee Wilson photo

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

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Harris Barber College

04/17/10 78 W, 1 I - + 6 - 8

Scenes from this morning's gas leak on Bledsoe Avenue, part one. Haz-Mat 1 and District 1 pictured in background, on South Blount Street just south of Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway. Harris Barber College was started by Samuel Harris in 1930, in the back of a barbershop at 124 E. Hargett Street, reads this [history page of their web site](#). The school moved to its present location at 803 S. Blount Street in 1942.



Tried to get the guys to check out a possible haircut while in rehab... didn't work. The barbers had no where to go at that time, so why not try!

A.C. Rich - 04/18/10 - 10:54

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'?

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

Patently Waiting

04/17/10 43 W, 1 I - + 8 - 11

Scenes from this morning's gas leak on Bledsoe Avenue, part two. Looking north on South Blount Street, with Engine 3 at intersection with Bledsoe Avenue. They were second on scene, special called after Engine 1 arrived.



"I will admit that I ate hard boiled eggs and drank a six pack of beer, but I am not the reason for your gas leak situation!"

Kleetis - 04/17/10 - 16:19

smells bad enough down there as it is anyway, plus when you add in Cargill.

lee - 04/18/10 - 00:26

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

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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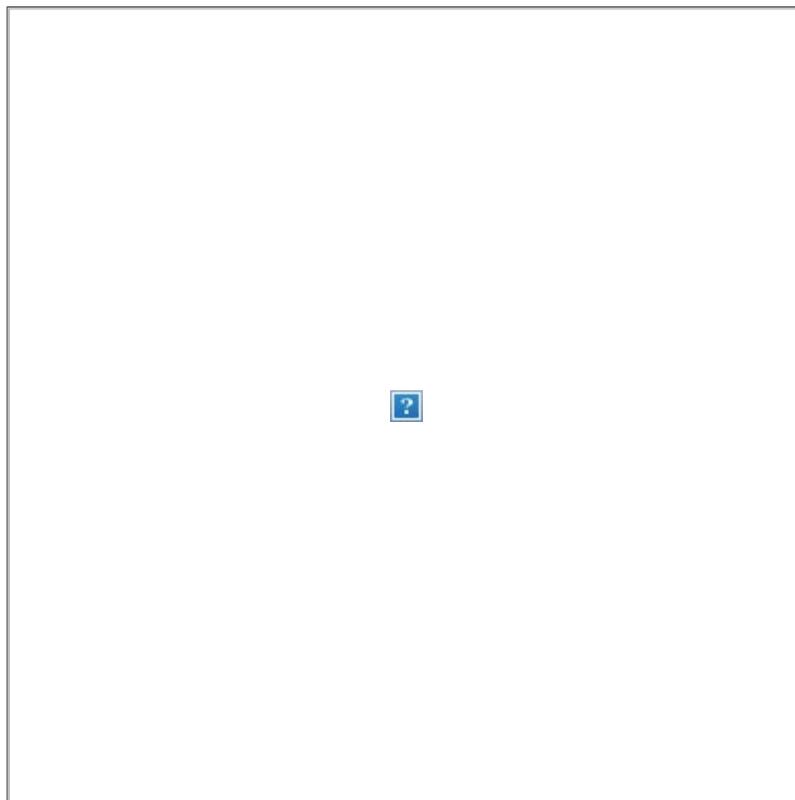
To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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What Happens to Burned Buildings?

04/17/10 95 W, 1 I - + 7 - 2

Question for those in the know. It's been over six months since the two-alarm fire at 1005 E. Millbrook Road, shown below, that killed a resident on September 15, 2009. The structure is still standing, and in seemingly the same condition as after the fire. Are property owners required to demolish (or perhaps rebuild or repair) structures after such incidents? If yes, does the process take many months, if perhaps insurance and other legalities must be squared? Credit to Mrs. Blogger for this question. We passed same this evening on date night.



From my experience in fire investigations, I am unaware of any requirement that forces property owners to rebuild or repair after a fire. However, if the residence is in a homeowner association district, the HOA may force the property owner to repair the residence to maintain the appearance of the neighborhood. Either way, it is extremely rare for a property owner to not want to repair it. Either they want to continue living in the residence, rent it out, or sale the property...not just let it sit.

The speed in which repairs are done are affected by several factors. The most common is their insurance company and whether or not they are challenging the claim. If the insurance company is fighting the claim, the process will take a considerable longer time period. Throw in a fatality and it only compounds the situation. You also have to consider what level of insurance the property owner had on the residence and what coverage was there. If insurance is not an issue, the property owner may simply just not be able to afford repairs. Or if the deceased was the property owner, the estate may not have yet assigned the residence to the rightful heir, further delaying repair.

AP - 04/18/10 - 09:16

Thanks AP, that's exactly the perspective that I, er, the Missus was seeking!

Legeros - 04/18/10 - 09:47

It depends on the locale/municipality, and it usually falls to the inspections department...with enforcement potentially varying (some

cities/inspectors are more vigorous than others). These ordinances frequently fall under an unfit for human habitation realm or a dilapidation provision. From the City of Raleigh's Municipal Code, the Inspections Department has the power to "To investigate the dwelling conditions in the City in order to determine which dwellings therein are unfit for human habitation".

Further with regard to timeframe and how such a process may be initiated: it can be by complaints of a certain # of residents in some jurisdictions, or by the action of an inspector seeing/investigating a complaint on their own. Their investigation is usually followed with letter/notice served upon the owner/property/responsible party, with a hearing to follow (10-30 days later) typically. Subsequently, an order of some type may be issued, and the ordinances allow that the "Director of Inspection may cause such dwelling[s] to be repaired, altered or improved or to be vacated or closed" for failure to comply.

I have seen a City of Raleigh Inspector place such a notice on a burned dwelling in the Hedingham Area, about 3 months post fire incident.

Inquiring minds...link to the City of Raleigh's Ordinance from Article H (Housing Code): <http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?c..> (Article H – Housing Code, Sec 10-6121 or search for dilapidation)

There could be insurance related issues that may arise as AP references.

McGraw ([Email](#)) - 04/18/10 - 21:50

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Beer Belly

04/17/10 75 W, 1 I - + 5 - 7

Speaking of abdominal storage areas, heard of this one? Called the [Beer Belly](#). The photo is pretty self-explanatory, though the male model is a bit more toned than we might imagine the average beer belly user. There's even a product for women called, you guessed it, the Wine Rack. I am told that some people really love adult beverages. Never developed a taste for them, myself.



C'mon Mikey. After all, they're good for you. Margaritas are rich in vitamin C!!!

DJ - 04/17/10 - 21:13

It's gotta' be a slow week at RFD!!!

Silver - 04/18/10 - 02:07

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Framing

04/17/10 35 W, 1 I - + 4 - 5

Changing the background of your picture by simply moving the camera, as photographed at today's gas leak on Bledsoe Avenue. Noticed this neat example while working on the preliminary pictures. Click to enlarge:



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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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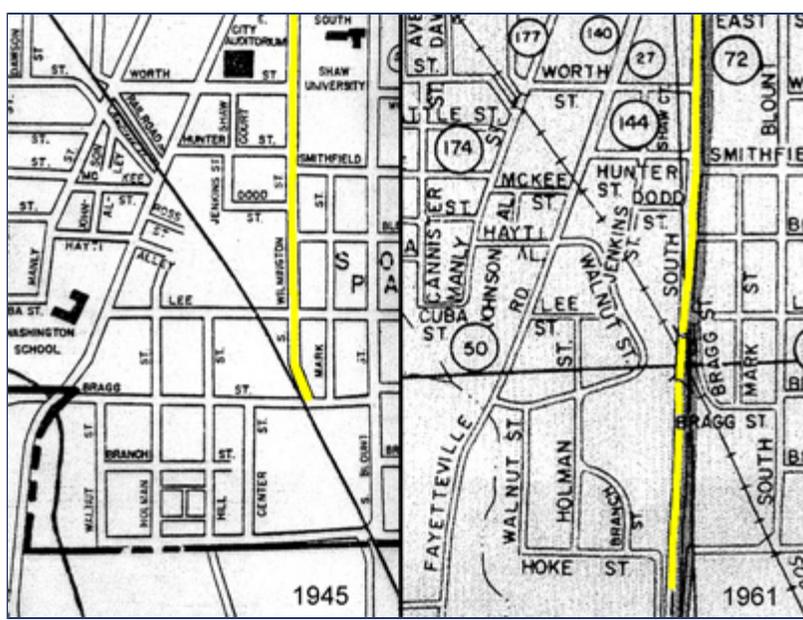
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Small print: All html tags except and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

South Wilmington Street

04/17/10 72 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

Let's go for a fourth posting based on Bledsoe Avenue this morning. While walking the perimeter, we meaning me noticed a second section of Wilmington Street, at street level, versus the elevated section that's over the railroad tracks. From this earlier posting about the [southside streets back in the day](#), we've excerpted a pair of maps from 1945 and 1961. Interesting to see the before and after! Click to enlarge:



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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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White Roof

04/18/10 131 W, 1 I - + 9 - 8

Would you believe a fire station with a white roof? That's the new top on Station 16 on Lead Mile Road, and a block from Blog Central. The roof was replaced some weeks ago. Why is the thing white? Presumably, as a cost-saver for summer utility bills, as well as an environmentally friendly move. Don't know if or how many other Raleigh fire stations have been similarly equipped. [This New York Times article](#) tells more about white roofs. As for the photo below, the two shadows are a power pole (left) and a camera on a tripod (right) being held over the head of Yours Truly. Good thing he was wearing a t-shirt. Would have looked just too weird had he been Hawaiian-clad.



They're using this "white pebble stuff" over tar for the roofing material. ...or at least that's what the contractor did at #8

A.C. Rich - 04/18/10 - 10:50

Hmmmmmm. Up close, this one looks like a thick plastic blanket, some or many inches thick.

Legeros - 04/18/10 - 10:53

Ahhh, nicer roofing huh? Yeah, it's that discrimination thing against the West Raleigh guys again... Ha..., but it's always been better as you swing north; like at #9 where the roof needs mowing!

A.C. Rich - 04/18/10 - 10:58

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Barbecue Burns in Smithfield

04/18/10 117 W, 1 I - + 8 - 8

That's Holt Lake Bar-B-Que & Seafood on [3506 South Brightleaf Boulevard](#) in Smithfield as photographed by WTSB radio. The popular restaurant was reported aflame about 6:55 p.m. this evening, when a deputy spotted smoke and flames. Units from Selma and Four Oaks fire departments also responded. Two ladder trucks were on scene. The restaurant was closed at the time of the fire. The news report notes that the place was previously destroyed by fire on July 8, 1981. That was the day after the Mangel Building fire in downtown Raleigh, come to think of it. No injuries were reported tonight, and no damage estimate has been given. [Read more and see more photos.](#)

*WTSB photo*

I think Hold should be Holt. But you may want to double check to make sure I am not wrong either

Marcus - 04/19/10 - 00:32

Thanks Marcus!

Legeros - 04/19/10 - 07:20

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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Generational Change?

04/19/10 140 W - + 9 - 10

Discussion topic for the day, expanding from that thought balloon from DJ that escaped onto his keyboard and into a blog comment. What happens when younger workers replace older workers in emergency services? What's gained, what's lost? What's effected administratively, operationally? How do things look from the Big Chief's chair, down to the dinner table on shift? And, what sort of knowledge transfer can be done, to preserve what the veterans know?

On that last point, I have done a bit musing. Many know that I record oral histories of retired and retiring Raleigh firefighters. Is that a format that's valid for retaining long-gained knowledge? Perhaps. Or is something more technological a better idea? What about an internal Wiki for an agency? A peer-created and peer-edited online encyclopedia, which seems perfect for such a purpose. What say you?

What's gained is youthful exuberance and, most likely, better physical fitness, at least from the career perspective. Take into account that most career departments are using the CPAT or a modified version of that test for the physical agility portion of their entrance requirements. We know that cardiac issues are the leading cause of death for FFs, so the general thought is becoming, more and more, "we need healthier recruits". That is a good thing. I don't know what other departments do, but when I was a volunteer member of career Washington (NC) Fire Rescue in the late 90s, the city encouraged and gave time for the FFs to exercise for an hour to start every shift day. Granted, there wasn't any kind of equipment to do so at the time, but it was common to see the shift members walking in a group around the station. The PD (for which I was an officer in the same time frame) gave us an hour every shift to exercise, although it was difficult to find the time to do it while at work.

What's lost, unless it's passed down to the new generation, is tradition. You find that more in career departments and in larger volunteer stations, I suppose. I was part of two volunteer departments (Beaufort and Pitt Counties) in succession, and really was not given firefighter traditions, such as symbolism and ceremony, along with terms, etc., by the veterans because it was just not done. I think that as part of the agrarian basis of many rural volunteer departments, especially in the south, tradition was not really given as a lot of departments sprung up as a result of farmers that just needed to protect their lives and livelihoods. I think if you go to municipal departments, especially those in the north, you get a larger sense of community and history and tradition.

As far as administrative and operational effect, departments seem to be getting further away from "how we've always done it" and, with older members retiring and more progressive folks assuming higher-echelon roles, we're seeing more progressive ways of doing our jobs. We also have a larger focus on education, meaning more departments are putting an emphasis on fire science degrees. With pub-ed an ever-increasing need, FLSE certifications are being sought on an unprecedented basis. When I started in the fire service in 1996, it was tough to find an instructor sometimes. Now it seems like it's tough to find enough classes to give all the instructors out there.

That's probably just the tip of the iceberg, but that's what I see going on.

Duda - 04/23/10 - 15:24

Duda made some pretty good points. Now coming up in the 70s and 80s I was fortunate enough to be around some folks who brought a degree of tradition to the jobs. In Maryland in the mid 90s I saw a lot of tradition being passed along to younger generations.

I think you will see a more progressive group of folks in leadership roles but after a while it will level out, much like it did before my time. The folks that we now consider to be "outdated" today were the progressives of my generation.

What I do see now, rather, what I lament now, is the reliance on technology by a lot of the younger folks. I really see it in my job, I guess, more so than maybe my firefightin' brethren. I see so many people that cannot do an assessment without a pulse oximeter. Don't get me wrong, the technology helps, but let it fail (as it is prone to do, more often than many will admit), and everyone starts breathing real fast, sweating, and wondering what to do.

I have seen a greater reliance on 'book smarts' and 'online education' as opposed to 'street smarts' and 'hands on education'. In practical terms, I know people right now who can read a 12-lead ECG at 50 yards but can't assess a patient staring them in the face.

But you know, it is no different now than it was when the 'progressives' of my day won out over the 'traditionalists' of my day. And the time before that. And the time before that.

DJ - 04/24/10 - 13:54

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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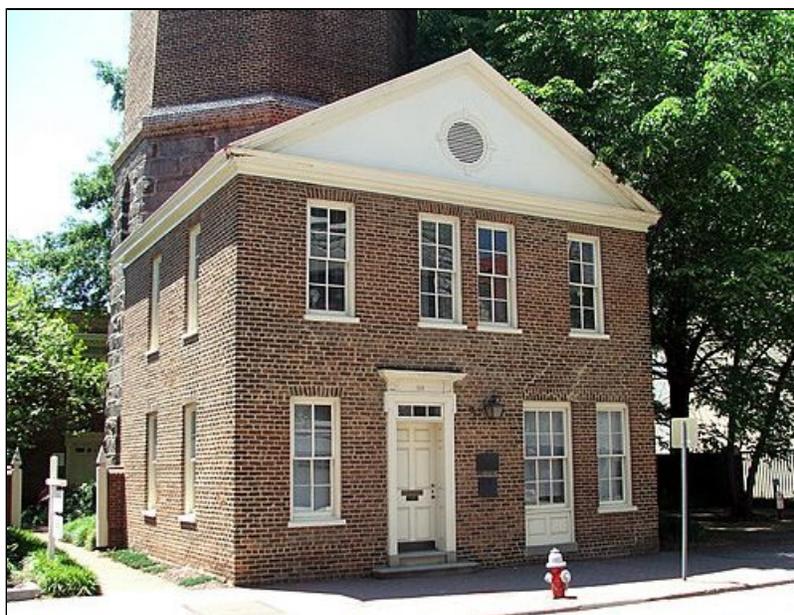
Small print: All html tags except and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Capital Hose House To Be Sold

04/19/10 168 W, 1 I - + 11 - 5

Did you catch the [item in today's News & Observer](#) that the county has approved a new headquarters for the American Institute of Architects? They'll sell their current quarters, called "a historic waterworks building." Indeed it is. The structure at 112 W. Morgan Street was erected in 1887, and first housed a hose company of the volunteer Raleigh Fire Department. The city's contracted waterworks company also had an office in the building, which adjoined the base of a water tower.

We've [blogged about the building before](#), which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The structure served as a fire station for just a couple years. But it's still the oldest fire department building in the city. How much might the thing sell for? County tax records list the value as a mere \$361,623. At least it's protected, so the structure we'll still be around regardless of the buyer. Could make one nifty residence, if you didn't mind the traffic!



Mike, do you have anymore pics of this building? Inside before and after?

Beach ([Email](#)) - 04/19/10 - 21:02

I have never been inside, nor seen pictures inside. Here's a picture with the building in the background, from 1891, <http://legeros.com/ralwake/raleigh/histo..>

Legeros - 04/19/10 - 21:21

Man if I had the money....

Silver - 04/19/10 - 22:39

I bet the water pressure is great (150 psi showers – awesome!). And maximum water supply credit for ISO.

J.D. McLean - 04/19/10 - 22:39

Would be an awesome union office....

Silver - 04/19/10 - 23:35

Would be a fine place for NCFFF Building.....

Beach ([Email](#)) - 04/20/10 - 11:51

Heck, go dig up a contact for old Station 4 on Jefferson Street. I am told the owners are or have been eyeing selling for some time. I expect that place needs way more work to make habitable.

Legeros - 04/20/10 - 11:56

Name: (real name
preferred)

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Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Patient Shifting Starts in Louisville

04/20/10 117 W - + 5 - 4

[Firegeezer yesterday blogged about patient shifting](#), a program that's starting in Louisville. Only Richmond has also fully implemented past the pilot program phase, at least in terms of cities in the United States. The protocol of transferring a small number of lowest-priority EMS calls to a nurse, instead of immediately dispatching an ambulance, is widely used in the United Kingdom and Australia. Sounds sensible to me. Let the nurse direct complaints of headache or stomach ache, for example, to the most appropriate avenue, and which may exclude a trip to the emergency room. Perhaps our paramedical readers can offer perspectives. Or even our paranormal readers, for that matter. [Read more from Firegeezer.](#)

MEDIC in Mecklenburg County currently will dispatch the call but with the info they receive afterwards can downgrade the call to an omega response, which transfers the patient to a nurse's line if need be

Engine man ([Email](#)) - 04/22/10 - 17:59

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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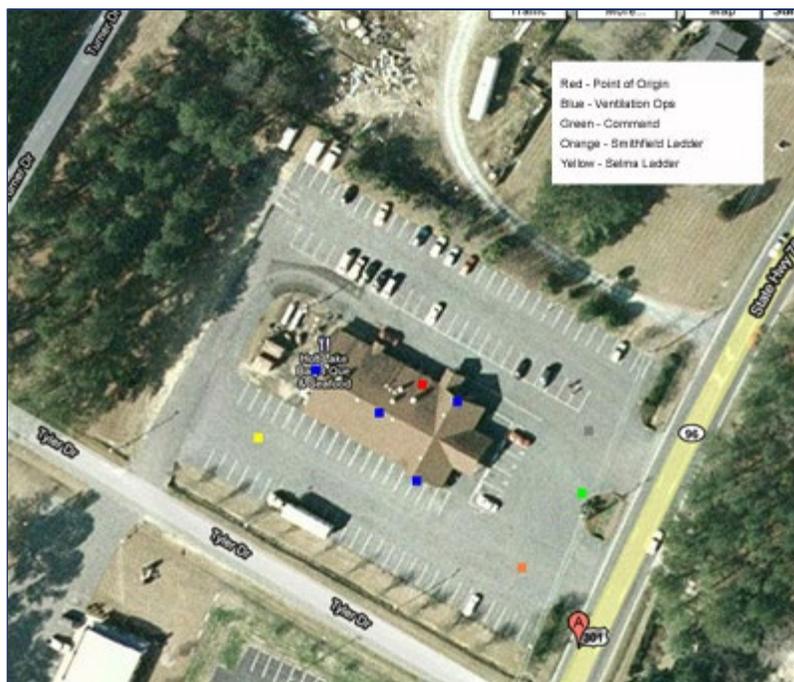
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Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - Holt Lake Barbecue, From The « Patient Shifting Star... » Roof Action Top

Holt Lake Barbecue, From The Top

04/20/10 80 W, 1 I - + 6 - 6

Reader Banks Wallace created this overhead view of [Sunday's fire in Smithfield at Holt Lake Barbecue](#). He says he wasn't there, but "based on my knowledge of the building and the photos I have scene, I have added the information that I could gather." Those in know, please add or correct as desired. Who says we only obsessively follow incidents in Wake County? Thanks Banks! 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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Roof Action

04/22/10 28 W, 1 I - + 4 - 6

Scenes from a structure fire. More later from this morning on Millbrook Road. The gods of photography sometimes smile on Mr. Blogger. Click to enlarge:



Now those are some great initial photos...looks like they knocked it down pretty quick.

BW - 04/22/10 - 20:11

Great work on the roof, but unless there is a 6 inch bar on that saw there are some rafters in serious peril?????

hook & ladder Co. - 04/23/10 - 09:51

Hahahaha...that's what happens when an engine man opens a roof!!!!!! Stick to the nozzles!!!

Silver - 04/23/10 - 11:10

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Hot Spots

04/22/10 53 W, 1 I - + 7 - 3

Another photo from this morning, while we await the uploading of some 160 pictures. Timing is everything, and Yours Truly was ready to leave a little earlier than usual today. The reason? He had... a dentist appointment. One point seven miles, from house to scene, says Google Maps.

Click to enlarge:



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

Remember personal info?

Yes
 No

Comment:

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Travel Plans

04/22/10 130 W - + 4 - 10

Where can you expect Mr. Camera to appear this summer? We're making plans for our first NASCAR race in May, for starters. We hear it's an impressive cultural experience. Are there fire and emergency crews within civilian view at Charlotte Motor Speedway? And so I can pad pictures of them with a few dozen spectator shots? Should be primo people watching!

Additional summer destinations are listed below. Feel free to post or send sightseeing tips, notably historic or former firehouses, impressive active stations, fire museums, other museums, abandoned or old airfields, former military facilities, interesting industrial areas, or interestingly decayed urban areas. Where we or me is expecting to roam:

- Baltimore (Fire Expo, as usual)
- Chicago
- Detroit
- Milwaukee
- New York City (been many times)
- Pella, IA
- Washington, DC

Mikey, yours truly was just in Dover taking "the class" and will be working some races soon as a fireman. My first is in May at Dover and I'm looking forward to it!!

Every pit has a fireman assigned to it, the position is at the rear of the vehicle (b/c of gas tank). The firemen usually wear orange or red jumpsuits. Typically, there are firemen in the garage as well as near the fuel depot area (where the gas is dispensed into the 11.5 gallon cans). In Dover, each "turn" has a "fire truck" assigned to it (pick-up with four members, extinguishers and a big extinguisher as well as a medic, crew chief and two firemen, crew chief drives and medic rides up front). Some raceways might put them at only a few turns. Then you have the "tool truck", which is equivalent to a "rescue truck" and the seasoned vets ride it.

Learned a lot, even though I don't care much about NASCAR the sport, I look forward to the new experience and learning more. E-mail me if you want to know more.

By the way, YOU NEED TO GET BY DOVER VFD!!! Very impressive for a capital city to be 100% volunteer, and the history they have is outstanding.

Silver - 04/22/10 - 21:01

While in Detroit make the trip over to Ypsilanti to visit the Michigan Firehouse Museum. You won't be disappointed!

<http://www.michiganfirehousemuseum.org>

LeBeau - 04/23/10 - 08:43

Found a few former or abandoned airfields of interest, via http://members.tripod.com/airfields_free.. Those places are great for urban exploration.

Old Naval Air Station in Glenview, IL, with a couple structures still around.

Bong AFB outside Milwaukee, old runway pattern still present as state park

Salem Airport and old Nike installation outside Detroit, structures still standing

Naval Outlying Landing Field in Pekin, IA, runways still exist

Legeros - 04/25/10 - 21:15

Garner EMS Requests Merger with Wake County, Starting May 31

04/22/10 366 W - + 12 - 10

That's the headline from the *Garner Citizen*, [reporting on the press release](#) issued yesterday by Garner EMS & Rescue Squad Inc. They have a short article about the announcement, as well as the entire text of the statement:

Over the last couple of months, the Garner EMS & Rescue Squad, Inc. Board of Directors has met to discuss the financial standing and future operations of the agency as it exists today. After several Board meetings and deliberations with Wake County, the GEMS Board of Directors requested that the Garner EMS operations transition to Wake County EMS effective May 31, 2010. Wake County staff is open to the transition but is awaiting an official letter of request from the Board of Directors. That letter is expected to be delivered by the end of the week.

This was a difficult decision because the GEMS Board, staff and the public at large wanted the Garner Emergency Medical Service division to maintain its identity. However; in today's economic climate, the EMS division, which depends entirely on billings for revenue, is not in a position to ensure that cash flow will be maintained to make payroll and pay off debt over the long run. Operating an agency from week to week and not knowing the financial condition is a very stressful way to run a business---and especially not the best situation for an emergency services provider.

The public will not see any interruptions in service before, during or after the transition. GEMS and Wake County will be working out the details of the transition over the next few weeks. GEMS currently has three divisions: EMS, Rescue and Medical Transport. The transition to Wake County only affects the EMS Division. It is anticipated that the Rescue and Medical Transport divisions will continue to operate out of the same location.

Garner Emergency Medical Services, Inc. would like to sincerely thank the citizens and businesses that have supported it over the years and especially in these recent difficult times. We regret the decision has come to this but believe it is best for the long term viability of emergency medical service in the Garner area.

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

Firefighter Bachelor Auctions For Charity This Weekend

04/22/10 167 W - + 6 - 4

Two firefighter bachelor auctions for charity are being held this weekend at the [Southern Women's Show](#) at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds. The Saturday and Sunday auctions benefit the Burned Children's Fund of Wake County. Details are below, reprinted from the web site. Don't know which hunks will be available for bidding. Perhaps they are reading and will post a teaser or two. Better yet, ladies, go visit legeros.com/firepics for your pre-show warm-up. More studs than you shake a stick at. Just don't droll on your keyboard.

Saturday, April 24 - 3:00 pm

It's Getting Hot in Here: Firefighter Fashion Show

Hosted by: Diane Ramsey, MIX 101.5

Benefits: The Burned Children's Fund of Wake County

Fashions by: Belk, Triangle Town Center

Sunday, April 25 - 3:00 pm

Bachelor Auction to Benefit the Burned Children's Fund of Wake County

Bid on a date with a local area firefighter and support a great cause.

Hosted by: Lynda Loveland, Mix 101.5

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Lee County Defense Rescue Unit

04/23/10 272 W, 2 I - + 4 - 5

For your Friday enjoyment, here's a nifty photo of a civil defense rescue squad from Sanford circa 1962 or 1963. The truck is labelled Lee County Defense Rescue Unit, and saw service in an American Legion Post-sponsored rescue squad agency, it appears. The photo was found in an unlabelled scrapbook of the North Carolina Civil Defense Administration and by historian Frank Blazich. [We've blogged about him before](#), and his [blog about state civil defense history](#).

The picture appears in his 2008 thesis from North Carolina State University titled [Alert Today, Alive Tomorrow: The North Carolina Civil Defense Agency and Fallout Shelters, 1961-1963](#). Click to view the NCSU library holding record, as well as the 208-page document itself. The document's chapter on the Cuban Missile Crisis was subsequently published in an issue of the [North Carolina Historical Review](#).

(Last year, Yours Truly consider submitting my monograph [Birth of a Fire Department](#) to the journal, but ultimately declined. They assume copyright ownership of the piece, which wasn't wanted. That's probably the only historical piece of mine that's publication-worthy, with the requisite citations and editorial style and such.)

What's the history of the Lee County rescue squad? Perhaps readers can add details. Civil Defense rescue squad units were common across the country in the 1950s and 1960s. Heck, the [Raleigh Fire Department operated one for many years](#). Next step, start thinking about the future of my research. Maybe graduate studies are in my future. Sure looks like a fun challenge, researching and writing a thesis on local or state fire department history. Maybe in my fifties. Click to enlarge this neat photo:


 Name: (real name
 preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes

Divide Scanned Photos

04/24/10 272 W - + 7 - 4

Long on my short list of historical things to do has been the compilation of Raleigh retiree photos. Once saw a fire department web site with a history section, and that listed and displayed portraits of all former members. Maybe New Haven? Somewhere up north and east. Recently, in preparation for a retiree event, Yours Truly had the occasion to produce this very thing. A web gallery of retiree portraits, which [you've since seen posted](#).

Did it take forever? Scanning seemingly hundreds of head shots? Negative. The magic was PhotoShop-- and/or, PhotoShop Elements-- and an option to **Divide Scanned Photos**. Simply, if you scan several photos at once, you can select this option, and the program automatically crops and rotates the pictures. Then you simply save each one. This project was made easier by the fact that yearbooks were scanned, instead of physical prints.

Since they're smaller, a magnification of around 150% or 175% was used. A **Descreen** option was also selected at the time of scanning. Without using descreening, the resulting image will show lots of little dots. The same way that a scanned newspaper photo usually looks like sh&t when enlarged or printed on photo paper. Once a folder full of image was produced, the option to **Process Multiple Files** was used, to create copies of uniform height. Each 500 pixels high.

Everything was plopped in the photo gallery template, and the results were published. A reasonably but not entirely complete photo history of Raleigh Fire Department retirees (and deceased members), dating back to the beginning (meaning 1949, when the city retirement system was created). [See the results](#).

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

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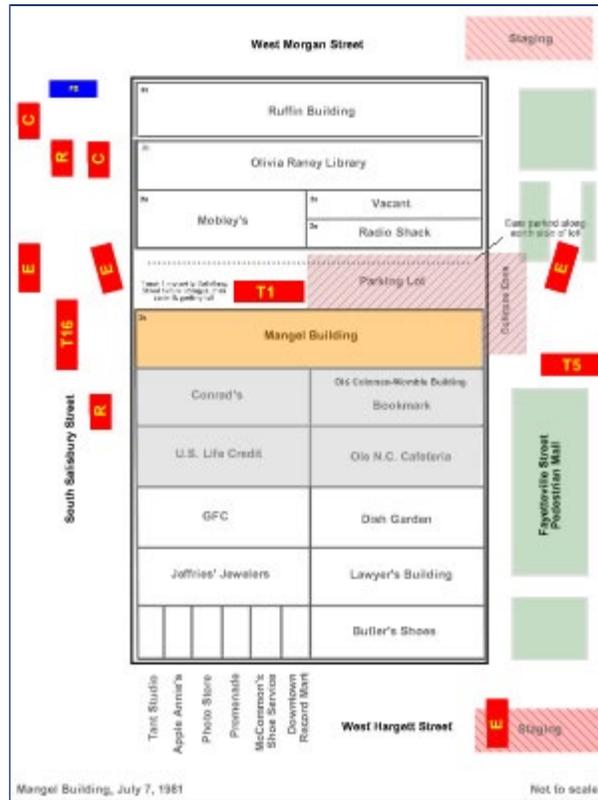
Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

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Diagram of Mangel Fire, 1981

04/24/10 84 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

Piles and piles here at Blog Central. Over here, long-unfinished narrative on the city's last great fire in 1851. Over there, boxes of slides to further review and scan. On the computer, notes and charts and even diagrams, such as this one of the Mangel Building fire from July 7, 1981. We know, Before Your Time. It's part of a larger project, documenting what happened that day. We'll finish it some day. Barring early death. Click once or twice to enlarge:



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This Morning's Police Car and Ambulance Accident

04/24/10 95 W - + 9 - 1

WRAL reports this morning that a Raleigh police car and Wake County EMS ambulance collided this morning at Creech Road and Slippery Elm Drive, while en route to a shooting. The original incident on Brasswood Avenue was reported just before 1 a.m. The accident occurred a couple blocks from the scene. There were no major injuries, with the responders reportedly complaining of soreness after the collision. No particulars are cited, such as additional units dispatched, if anyone was transported, or the cause of the accident. [Read the story.](#)

Without the facts, there is no way to tell what happened, how, or why. This is just a reminder and a hope to all drivers, volunteer, paid, Fire Police EMS... if you are heading on a call in emergency mode, use ALL lights and sirens. I have see where officers don't want the driver to use the sirens at night or the horn, because they don't want to wake the neighbors or make a lot of noise. Remember though, YOU as the driver are accountable... if you don't use the proper warning devices, YOU can be held liable if something happens.

Be safe, drive accordingly, help others, make it home safely. Nuff said.

Driver. - 04/24/10 - 19:06

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preferred)

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Yes

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

Wake EMS Featured for Improved Cardiac Arrest Survival Rates

04/24/10 115 W, 1 I - + 10 - 5

Wake County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will be featured in an upcoming issue of the medical journal *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, highlighting the County's 200 percent improvement in outcomes for victims of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in Wake County. [The article is available for download now](#) . Cardiac arrest is an immediately life-threatening condition in which a person's heartbeat and breathing stop. The review, which observed 1,365 victims of cardiac arrest between January 2004 and October 2007, tracked significant increases in survival rates as treatment protocols were enhanced. The improved treatment measures saved an additional 25 lives per year in Wake County during that time. [Read entire press release.](#)

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Rural Water Supply History?

04/25/10 125 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

Discussion topic for the day. What's the history of rural water supply in our state? Here's what I have been told, in research for my state fire history talks. The concept of water shuttles was originated by an Iowa famer in the late 1960s. He shared same at a conference, maybe FDIC. Some North Carolina firemen brought the idea back home, and implemented it in Cumberland, Duplin, and Wayne counties. Converted tankers were used to start, and the concept was recognized by ISO. Nahunta FD in Wayne County was the first to receive a lower ISO rating, due to their new capability to shuttle water. That's the gist. Readers and old-timers, please elaborate!



Mike from what I've been told by old timers in my area, it was 1st started in Wayne County by gravity dumping tankers and then the concept of Jet Dump tankers was developed. I have noticed several departments in the Wayne/Duplin county areas having bought tankers in the 70s with jet dumps on them. It became a standard to have jet dump capabilities with elbow tubes that can dump to the side. Since the start of tankers that can dump from the side some departments have switched to gravity newton valves with side and rear dumps for large 1800 gallon or more tankers. I know my department had a 4,000 gallon tractor trailer tanker in the 60s and 70s with no dump valve just a small pump on it.

car3550 - 04/25/10 - 12:59

We have a gentleman by the name of JERRY GRIMES, he has served as past fire chief of the department and also served with OSFM for many years. He has told me that he was one of the few that assisted Wayne county in helping to get ISO to recognize a water haul for credit. He has been very helpful in given information to anyone that is willing to listen. Mr. Grimes still lives in Siler City.

Scott J. Murphy ([Email](#)) - 08/04/10 - 17:12

Name: (real name
preferred)
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Yes
No

Firefighter As Most Stressful Job

04/25/10 108 W - + 10 - 5

Mrs. Blogger found an [interesting article from Career Cast](#), listing their rankings for the top ten most stressful occupations in 2010. Firefighter is tops, and beats Corporate Executive, Surgeon, Police Officer, Highway Patrol Officer, and even Commerical Pilot. Their description of Firefighter stress: "Firefighters frequently work irregular or unusual hours, or remain on call throughout the night. They risk heat exhaustion, smoke inhalation, and serious injury while on the job, and even the state of anticipation preceding a major threat can be highly stressful in itself. Firefighters are also sometimes required to spend long hours outdoors in bad weather." [Read the article.](#)

I need my wife to read this article. Maybe her to-do-list will get smaller on my days off.

Nate - 04/25/10 - 16:19

I just informed my wife of the article. It somehow did not have the effect I had hoped. She laughed...

A.C. Rich - 04/25/10 - 21:27

Laughter is a known response to stress. Just visit any firehouse. She is obviously deeply empathetic.

Legeros - 04/25/10 - 21:28

She's got too much of her father in her. The laughter is REAL and full of sarcasm!!

A.C. Rich - 04/25/10 - 22:39

AC- I feel your pain. I got the same response!! Where is the compassion?!

Goose - 04/26/10 - 14:04

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FDIC Panel Debates Issue of Fire Service Diversity

04/25/10 144 W - + 9 - 7

[Firehouse.com reports](#) on what sounds like a fascinating panel discussion conducted this week at the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) in Indianapolis. The subject was diversity in the fire service; the panel included "an African-American lieutenant, a Caucasian lieutenant who recently won a reverse discrimination lawsuit, a female chief and a retired Caucasian chief who is also a lawyer." The discussion lasted over 90 minutes, as the panelists offered perspectives on the "thorny" topic, and also took questions from the audience. The article has a nice recap, and perhaps can serve as a useful springboard for local conversations. (Though the topic might be too tricky for discussion online.) Kudos to the participants for facilitating such bold and likely needed conversation. Maybe a recording or a transcription will surface of same. [Read the article.](#)

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

Garner Fire Department is Hiring

04/25/10 86 W, 1 I - + 4 - 4

The Garner Fire Department is hiring for full-time firefighter positions, as they're planning for the opening of Station 4 later this year. Starting salary is \$30,400. [Read this announcement letter](#), which includes qualifications. Applications can be downloaded from www.garnerfire.com, or obtained at Garner Station 1 during business hours. Deadline for applications is Friday, May 14, at high noon. And here's a friendly tip, don't wait until the last minute. Time is your friend, and you should use it. Good luck to all applicants!

is garner running an academy because nowhere on the requirements list did it mention EMT or FF I/II

curious - 04/27/10 - 02:21

Good point. I updated my post with the words "firefighter positions" to reflect that fact.

Legeros - 04/27/10 - 06:36

So I take that as a yes to the academy. Any idea on total number?

curious - 04/27/10 - 11:26

Actually, I am acknowledging that the requirements do not list EMT or FFI/II. Thus I clarified my wording that they are hiring for FF positions. Versus hiring firefighters.

Legeros - 04/27/10 - 17:33

good call on the grammatical wording

curious - 04/27/10 - 18:48

The candidates will be placed in the Wake County 3rd Annual Fire Academy to receive all certifications

vce - 04/27/10 - 19:12

Instead of guessing, the smart thing to do would be actually contact the fire department doing the hiring!

firefly104 - 04/27/10 - 19:14

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Comment:

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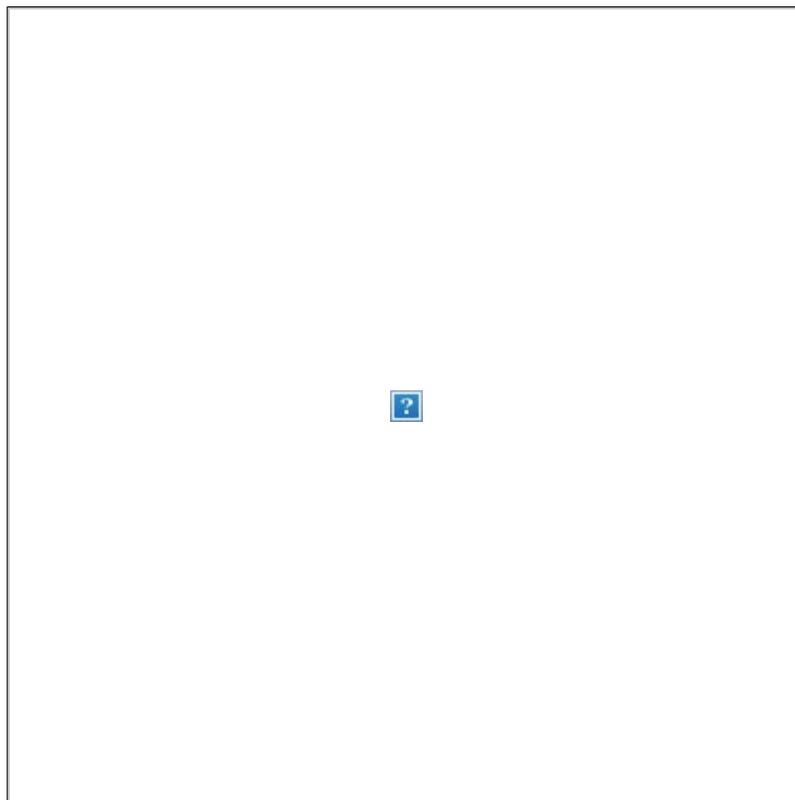
What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?

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

Last Night's Severe Weather

04/26/10 75 W, 1 I - + 11 - 8

[WRAL has posted a handful of viewer photos](#) from last night's severe weather in eastern Wake County, including this compelling image taken on Riley Hill Road in Zebulon. The storm then moved into Nash County. [The News & Observer has some information](#) about the storm's effect in Zebulon, including damage to a tree in front of the town hall. No injuries or building damage were reported to ZPD.



WRAL photo

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Preparing For Nuclear Disaster

04/27/10 222 W, 1 I - + 7 - 2

How's that for the provocative headline of the day? Much more exciting than, say, *Wake to Distribute Preparedness Potassium Iodide*, which is the title of yesterday's press release, announcing that residents located with the ten-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) of the [Harris Nuclear Power Plant](#) will receive potassium iodide (KI) tablets on two dates in May. The distribution is part of joint preparedness planning by Chatham, Harnett, Lee, and Wake Counties. The KI tablets, if taken appropriately and within the appropriate time, reduce the risk of thyroid cancer but blocking absorption of radioactive iodine. [Read the entire press release](#). And here's a [nifty map of the EPZ](#) .

As prior posts attest, Mr. Blogger enjoys reading emergency preparedness materials from the Cold War-era, when the nation was building fallout shelters and school children were being taught to duck and cover. Such instructional material still exists and in present-day format, such as this helpful guide found via Google called [What to Do If a Nuclear Disaster is Imminent!](#) Check out the diagrams for easy lean-to-shelter construction in basements, which would be great, except that there aren't terribly many basements in these parts. The same site also sells "nuclear preparedness products," such as KI pills, personal radiation monitors and alarms, and Civil Defense Geiger counters and dosimeters. [Go shopping](#).

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Hazing Again, Shall We?

04/27/10 318 W - + 9 - 2

Two interesting items on the subject of hazing, which we successfully discussed and [even conducted a poll](#) about a few weeks ago. First item is this firehouse.com recap of an FDIC session. [Firehouse Pranks or Professionalism? The L.A. Story](#), and the damaging effects of those incidents at LAFD. Relevant quote: "How much hazing is acceptable as opposed to zero tolerance? A little hazing can lead to a \$1.4 million lawsuit over someone eating dog food because it was just a little bit of hazing." Would love to read a session summary of that one.

Second item is from Baltimore, from what looks like a government watchdog site. [Constant Conflict - Did Poor Leadership Lead To Fight at Baltimore's Smokestack Hardy Firehouse?](#) The story of a station crew, some behaviors therein, and emotions that escalated to a near knife fight. The Inspector General of the city reviewed the incident and cited a failure of leadership. Relevant quote: "The report also found the types of humiliating pranks and taunting that colleagues said later contributed to [the incident] were at least tacitly encouraged by supervisors, if not in some cases facilitated by them." Seems like a balanced article, though there are second sides to all stories. Maybe we'll see discussion on the [Baltimore Watch Desk](#), or coverage and discussion from [Dave Statter](#).

What does it all mean? Well, the firehouse is still a second home, and with all the challenges of living with others. That's as old as time. But the people are changing and perhaps faster than the traditions. Education levels. Work experience. Cultural diversity. Leadership expectations. The world they serve is all-new, too. The old ways aren't always appreciated. There might be methods to the madness—the rough and tumble play serves particularly purposes—but the line seems to be getting finer than ever.

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Virtually Exploring Detroit

04/28/10 132 W - + 8 - 13

Talk about a place for urban exploration! Based on Google findings, the city is a magnificent ghost town in many places. And what sounds like the only city outside of Chicago or New York for notable pre-Depression architecture. Quite a few former firehouses, and many dating a century or more in age. Most of the active houses appear to be historic, and in the 100 year old range. Some links are below for your midweek enjoyment, for those inclined to virtually explore. Might have to alter my travel plans, to spend more than a passing day around town!

- [Classic Fire Houses](#)
- [Detroit Firehouses](#) (photo gallery)
- [Detroit Urban Exploration](#)
- [Discussion of Firehouses](#) (seven pages)
- [Firehouses](#)
- [Firehouses of the Detroit Fire Department](#) (on-demand book)
- [Forgotten Detroit](#)
- [OhioUrbex](#) (coolest midwestern UE site ever!)

And a list of all stations and units, from 2006: http://www.box42.net/dfdarchives_staloca..

Check out these station ages!

Year Location

? 900 Merrill Plaisance
 1893 3812 Mt. Elliott
 1899 1818 E. Grd. Blvd.
 1899 111 Kenilworth
 1901 2200 Crane
 1907 7600 W. Jefferson
 1908 1625 W. Lafayette
 1909 433 W. Alexandrine
 1909 1697 W. Grd. Blvd.
 1909 11740 E. Jefferson
 1910 3396 Vinewood
 1912 1041 Lawndale
 1915 1113 Coplin
 1916 2820 Central
 1916 5000 Rohns
 1918 6535 Livernios
 1918 7000 Helen
 1921 6324 W. Chicago
 1921 21 W. Seven Mile
 1921 10101 Knodell
 1921 10700 Shoemaker
 1922 6100 Second
 1922 17475 Mt. Elliott
 1922 6830 McGraw
 1924 12515 Grand River

1925 12985 Houston-Whittier
1926 111 W. Montcalm
1926 10325 Linwood
1926 18326 Livernios
1926 5029 Manistique
1926 15127 Greenfield
1927 18140 Joy Rd.
1927 18601 Ryan Rd.
1927 13960 Burt Rd.
1928 10800 Whittier
1929 250 W. Larned
1930 17800 Curtis
1930 Ft. of 24th Str.
1935 19701 Hoover
1938 16825 Trinity
1948 2775 W. Warren
1951 16543 Meyers
1956 3050 Russell
1970 3737 E. Lafayette
1980 13939 Dexter
1980 2300 S. Fort
1983 8700 Fourteenth
1989 Detroit City Airport
2003? DWSD/9401 W. Jefferson
2006 4700 W. Fort

Legeros - 05/02/10 - 18:40

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Dog Tax

04/28/10 21 W, 1 I - + 7 - 11

How amusing is this? Found for sale on eBay. Vintage dog tag.



Name: (real name preferred)
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Name Change For Lightner Public Safety Center?

04/29/10 166 W - + 10 - 14

What's happening these days with the Lightner Public Safety Center project? A member of the police department and city resident wants the building named after firefighter or police officer who died in the line of duty, versus former mayor [Clarence E. Lightner](#). The one-time mayor is also the city's only black mayor to date.

Detective Kevin Rooker sent a letter to all council members requesting a considering of the name change, and also started a Facebook group on the topic. The group has some 280 members at present. [The News & Observer has the story](#). Other reporting includes [this story from from WTVD](#).

How many fire and police members have died in the line of duty in the Capital City? Three in the fire department (1956, 1965, 2008) and eight in the police department (1922, 1968, 1968, 1968, 1980, 1995, 1995, 2002). Read about the firefighters on [Mike's history pages](#). Read about the police officers at the [Raleigh Police Memorial Foundation](#), a group started last year by active and retired members.

Why does every building in America have to be named after someone? Please.....

This is a good idea and I applaud the officer for trying to do something. However these topics are nothing but a big political ball that gets tossed around and the media blows it up and out. Then it's a racial injustice and well... we aren't represented fairly etc...

So much work has gone into this project and...well lets hope it works out and this much needed facility can be built and service the residence of Raleigh and Wake County.

Buckwheat - 04/29/10 - 17:30

This has taken a totally different direction than intended. I want everyone to know, I have nothing against C. E. Lightner or his family. However, I respectfully suggest that someone who has made a significant sacrifice have the honor on such a monumental project. Please support the police and fire personnel, those whom make every sacrifice for the good of our community. KR

Kevin Rooker - 04/29/10 - 19:38

No matter who's name is on the building, it has to be built first!

Jenny McQueen - 04/29/10 - 21:13

To honor all, maybe it should be named the "Raleigh Memorial Public Safety Center" and list the names of all of our fallen placed in its main foyer. No names on the building, just honor inside.

A.C. Rich - 04/29/10 - 21:29

Trivia for you, Memorial Auditorium was originally named War Memorial Auditorium, if memory serves, when it opened in 1932, and presumably honoring those that died in WWI (and perhaps earlier wars?).

Legeros - 04/29/10 - 21:31

@A.C Rich has the right idea. And I also agree with Jenny. Dang thing has to be a real building before we worry too much about anything else!

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 04/29/10 - 21:43

A.C. and Jenny, you both are right, and make good points.

We could call it the Raleigh Public Safety Center. Or, take it a step like the RBC center....give it a name, get a sponser later... "The Krispy Krema Safety Center of Raleigh NC"

Meier - 04/29/10 - 23:07

Meier, I don't think that is all that far fetched, actually. Wake County Public Schools are also considering selling naming rights to high school football fields and gymnasiums to generate extra income. Stranger things have happened, eh?

Sparky - 04/30/10 - 07:27

They could do like the CIA and line an inside wall with a star for each public safety member that has been killed in Wake County, only put the name and end of duty date under each one.

Mike - 04/30/10 - 10:34

Meier...the Krsipy Kreme comment is perfect. See, no one should be offended by that. I like it!
This is a creative bunch on this site.

Buckwheat - 04/30/10 - 11:36

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Remember personal info?

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Crash Trucks and Bomb Squads

04/29/10 131 W, 1 I - + 9 - 12

Couple interesting video clips from yesterday's diverted flight into Greensboro due to a bomb threat. [This Fox8 video clip](#) features the airport firefighters who were training at the time of the incident. The footage includes their new Oshkosh Stryker crash truck, which we'd heard they'd received. Did they get more than one? Speaking of Oshkosh, [check out the new Striker designs](#). They look taller, and bit more rounded. A bit more Rosenbauer Panther-like, in fact. Meanwhile, [this News14 video clip](#) shows the bomb squad vehicles of the Greensboro Police Department. The one on the right is a device transport unit, if that's the right terminology. Couldn't find any information on the GPD web site, but perhaps readers can enlighten.



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Fallen Firefighters Memorial Event Schedule

04/30/10 90 W - + 11 - 9

[As posted on FireNews](#), here are all events involved or associated with weekend's [North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Foundation](#) Memorial Service:

Friday, April 30

5:30 p.m. - Shuttle to Station 1 for 2010 LODD family survivors ceremony.

6:30 p.m. - Meal at Station 1.

8:00 p.m. - Fallen Heroes Family Candlelight Ceremony, Nash Square.

also

7:00 p.m. - Fellowship night at Tir na NOg, 218 S. Blount Street, with Wake and District Pipe Band.

Saturday, May 1

10:00 a.m. - Memorial Service Parade, downtown Raleigh.

1:00 p.m. - Memorial Service, Nash Square.

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Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Fallen Firefighters Motorcycle Run, Saturday, May 1

04/30/10 140 W, 2 I - + 8 - 14

Also on Saturday, May 1, the [Red Knights Motorcycle Club](#) is participating in the World's Largest Poker Run 2010, a fundraising event for the [Fallen Firefighter Survivors Foundation](#). They start at 10:00 a.m. at Ray Price Harley Davidson in Raleigh, rain or shine, and end about 3:00 p.m. and about 100 miles later at Crossroads Entertainment in Wake Forest. There there'll be food, live music, and, of course, prizes! The riders will be escorted by fire and police units. Registration fees are \$25 per bike, and \$15 per rider. Free t-shirt, too, while they last. [The Guinness Book of World Records](#) will be there, to see if riders can beat the record set last year for the largest motorcycle [poker run](#) taking place in multiple venues simultaneously. [Read more about the event](#) .



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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Great Old Video

05/01/10 44 W - + 7 - 3

[Dave Statter found this classic](#) clip from 1959 and showing the Laurel Springs Fire Department in New Jersey. Dig those rigs, including what looks like a war-time Army pumper, a Divco rescue van, and a megaphone-enabled "radio car."

Does anyone else find it amusing that they broke the siren/light off that first-out pumper?

Duda - 05/03/10 - 13:49

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Whiskey Tango Foxtrot

05/01/10 41 W - + 6 - 4

[Firegeezzer found this incredible story](#) of Indiana responders who handle leaking anhydrous ammonia gas cylinders using water, rifles, and perhaps crossed fingers. There has to be another side to this particular story.

[Missing photo]
Plain Dealer-Sun photo

The PPE is questionable, however the tactic employed to abate the gas is used often. Everyone (especially in rural areas) should be aware of any odd looking 20lb propane cylinders, especially if the valve assembly (brass) is discolored to a "bluish" oxidized color. These cylinders are often used as storage containers for stolen Anhydrous Ammonia (for use in meth production). Approved ammonia storage will always use stainless steel fittings/valves and it's NEVER stored in any container that resembles the 20lb propane cylinder.

A.C. RIch - 05/02/10 - 12:42

Cool. Wonder if we can justify putting some AR-15's on the Haz-mat trucks now. LOL

gen3fire - 05/02/10 - 22:29

Name: (real name
 preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Mystery Bike

05/01/10 43 W, 1 I - + 8 - 4

One sweet ride as seen at Ray Price this morning. No idea make, model, or owner. Just looked cool in close-up. Might need to try that some time, taking a ride on a motorcycle.



Once you take that first ride, you will be hooked for ever!!!

Donaldson - 05/01/10 - 16:19

Murdercycles. The only vehicle where YOU surround IT.

Job security - 05/01/10 - 20:45

It was a great ride on Sat. Thanks to all who participated!

A.C. Rich - 05/02/10 - 12:33

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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More Homes Burn in Clayton, Arson Again Suspected

05/02/10 97 W, 1 I - + 9 - 2

[WRAL reports this morning](#) that two homes under construction in Clayton were destroyed early today, and in what police believe is the latest in a string of intentional fires. They make the six and seventh of such fires since October 2009. The fires were reported about 2:44 a.m, with crews finding the home at [151 Skygrove Drive](#) fully involved on arrival. They also found a fire inside the adjacent structure at 137 Skygrove Drive. Clayton, Wilsons Mills, and Archer Lodge fire departments were on scene. [Read the entire story.](#)



WRAL photo

Units on scene were: Clayton FD C1, C3, C4, BC1, BC3, E1, E3, E4, E5, R1, FS1. Wilsons Mills FD Engine __, Archer Lodge FD Engine __, Clayton EMS x 2 Ambulances (Units?), Johnston County EMS Supervisor (EMS3), Thanksgiving FD moved up to cover CFD Sta 2 and ALFD districts, and Garner FD moved up to CFD Sta1 to cover. Red Cross responded to assist with rehab/refreshements. Various law enforcement agencies, local and state.

JC911 - 05/02/10 - 10:35

Wilsons Mills E5, Archer Lodge E2, EMS 41, EMS 43 and EMS 3 (system supervisor).

JOCO Info - 05/03/10 - 22:20

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

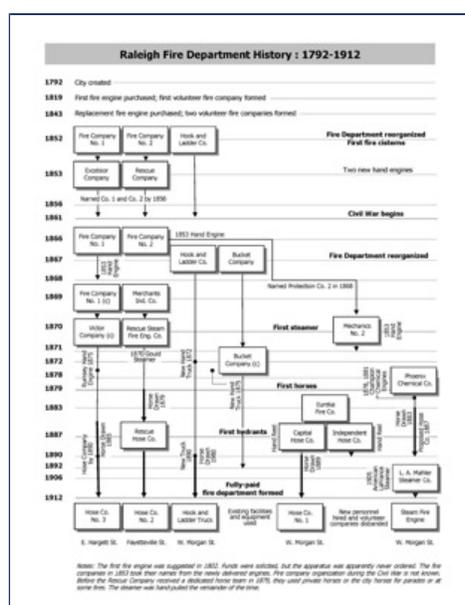
No

/ [Textile](#)

Raleigh Fire Department History : 1792-1912

05/02/10 90 W, 1 I - + 4 - 5

This asset was previously titled *Raleigh Fire Department Early History*, and represents Mr. Blogger's best attempt to visually represent the people and equipment that became and comprised the volunteer Raleigh Fire Department. Pictures say so much more than words, don't they? We've shown some before, so this isn't exactly new news. The second page of the PDF document has been updated, however, with new numbers for the present-day department. How about a more modern chart, you say? In the works. Click to view:



Next question, how did I make the thing? It was drawn three-some years ago, using Microsoft Word. Text boxes, graphic lines, faked shadows, etc. Sketched first on paper, as memory serves. And it developed over a couple iterations, with increasing detail and better arrangement and placement of the information.

During the production of the 2007 yearbook, I realized that the chart wasn't necessarily print-ready for high-resolution formats. So I remade the thing using PhotoShop Elements. Didn't do anything further with same, I don't think.

How long did the research of the data take? The chart came at the end of a multi-year period of research. About five years of digging and looking. Some of the dates and facts were known at the outset; others had to be found. Sources ranged from library books, to historian records, to microfilm newspapers, to the fire department, to the physical city minutes in the City Clerk's vault. It was a fun time!

Legeros - 05/02/10 - 10:43

One word: impressive. 'Nuff said.

AP - 05/02/10 - 22:07

Thanks, AP. Thanks, too, Bill, for a nod on the 'geezer site.

So what compels creation of such a thing, outside of an obsessive, er, healthy interest in fire department history?

Frankly, it was crafted to help myself. As I continued to learn and try to make sense out of the volunteer history of Raleigh, and which companies were the predecessors of other companies, and such, I realized that I needed a chart. At some point, the thing turned into a usual

visual aid, for anyone interested in the history.

Legeros - 05/04/10 - 21:06

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Fire Commission Meeting Notice, May 13

05/03/10 57 W - + 10 - 6

The Wake County Fire Commission holds its next meeting in another week. This is the back-up date, instead of the May 6 date previous indicated. The agenda for the meeting includes a presentation of the FY11 recommended budget:

- Thursday, March 13, 2010
- 7:00 p.m.
- Wake County EMS Training Facility
- Commons Building, Lower Level, [4011 Carya Drive](#).

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Rescue on the Trail

05/03/10 87 W, 2 I - + 8 - 5

Injured person on a trail at William B. Umstead State Park yesterday afternoon, with Raleigh police, Raleigh fire, Western Wake fire, Cary EMS, and Park Rangers working together to get responders to the patient, and the patient to the hospital. And just how many vehicle entrances to the park-- public and private-- are there, anyway? Here's a [map of the park](#). Never noticed the "airport overlook" before. What sort of view does that afford?



The Airport Overlook gives a relatively unobstructed view of planes taking off and landing from runway 14/32 (the NCNG strip). There are only two "official" park entrances (Glenwood Ave. for Crabtree and Harrison Ave. for Reedy Creek), but there are many jumping-off points/gates around off Ebenezer Ch. Rd. and Reedy Creek Rd. for vehicles to enter, should the need arise. The park staff use the multi-use trails to get from one side of the park to another, and to move vehicles around for trail and facility repair and maintenance. My office is (as I know Mr. Blogger is familiar) at the Reedy Creek maintenance area, which is at the Reedy Creek Lake Rd. trailhead. And no matter what anyone's GPS says, you can't get from Hwy. 70 to I-40 through the park!

Duda - 05/03/10 - 13:46

Yea, since there is no real elevation, you're really just looking at a LARGE cleared area which happens to have runways on it. If you're a good boy and stay behind the fence, there is a slight berm about 20 yds to your front that is a slight obstruction. If you walk over to that, you can get a better view, but that's officially a no no... :) It's a good place to stop after running up the hills on Reedy Creek Trail and catch your breath.

Bob - 05/05/10 - 09:16

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Video of Garage Fire Explosion

05/04/10 82 W - + 6 - 10

Here's another [nifty video as surfaced by Dave Statter](#), a garage fire in Washington with an explosion. Can't go wrong blogging about bloggers! Dave's posting has both the explosion-only and a longer sequence of video. Plus comments, which are equally compelling. The discussions on his site are a study unto themselves. Watch the firefighter in the foreground. He doesn't even flinch. That's Snohomish County, WA, which is a couple hours from gorgeous Snoqualmie Falls.

20lb propane cylinder + a "little bit" of fire = KaBoom!!

A.C. Rich - 05/04/10 - 12:30

@A.C.- When the camera is walking up the driveway behind the FF, is that the relief valve we hear operating just before it explodes?

Not a HazMat Guy - 05/04/10 - 15:55

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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Wake County Firefighter's Association Quarterly Supper and Meeting, Tuesday, May 11 (Updated) 05/09/10 120 W - + 11 - 5

Next week, the spring supper and meeting of the [Wake County Firefighter's Association](#) will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9, at the Zebulon Fire Department at [113 E. Vance Street](#). The day is a C shift day. We'll see if we can get an agenda posted. The meal will be a barbecue sponsored by [5.11](#) and [MES](#). The previous announced speaker, historian Mike Legeros, has been moved to the November meeting.

Update on Sunday. Here's the agenda for the meeting:

- Return Thanks
- Meal
- Call Meeting to Order
- Roll Call
- Attendance Award
- Financial Report
- Minutes of Last Meeting
- Old Business
- Agency Reports
- Committee Reports
- Committee Volunteers
- New Business
- Guest Speakers

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.

Flat Pack SCBA

05/06/10 53 W, 1 I - + 11 - 6

[Very short video from FDIC](#) showing the flat pack SCBA that's under development. Talk about new and improved! Available for commercial application next year, says the speaker in the video. What's that translate to, for acceptance and deployment in local fire departments? Couple years? Many years? Click to watch:



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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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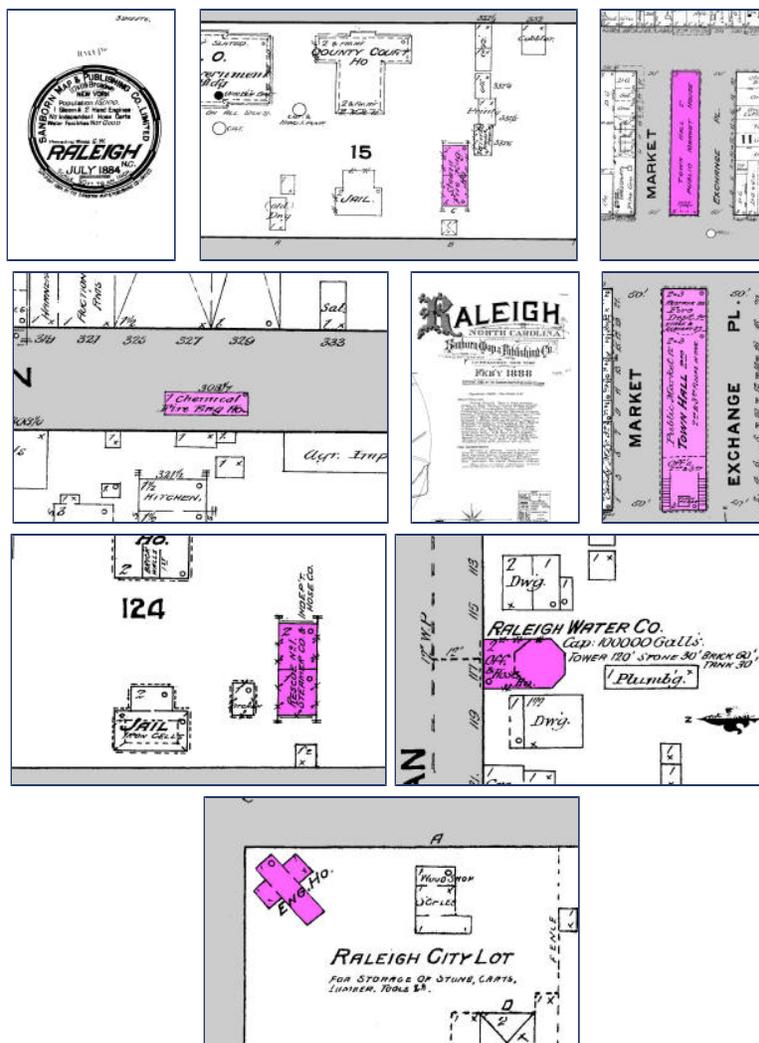
Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

Fun with Sanborn Maps

05/06/10 35 W, 9 I - + 8 - 7

Raleigh Fire Department buildings in 1884 and 1888. Blissfully free of context. [Read more about the buildings.](#) More on another day. Click to enlarge:



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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

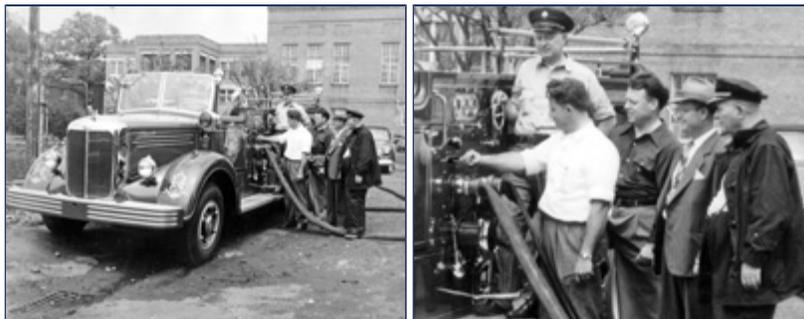
Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Mack Pumping

05/07/10 85 W, 2 I - + 10 - 2

For your Friday enjoyment, here's an undated photo of Raleigh's first bulldog, a [1950 Mack Type 85 pumper](#) delivered in March of that year. Chassis number 85LS1441, and equipped with a 750 GPM pump. The bid price was \$13,000. It served as Engine 6 from 1950 to 1975, when it entered the reserve pool as Reserve A. Pictured left to right is department's mechanic M.T. "Ace" Parker (wearing cap), two "factory men," civilian (?) Pat Murphy, and Fire Chief Alvin B. Lloyd. Click to enlarge:



What building is that in the background?

Curious - 05/07/10 - 20:24

Looks like a school, maybe? Washington School, with pumping from Walnut Creek?? Or do I have wrong geography in mind for the creek?

Legeros - 05/07/10 - 20:32

Very different design on the door. Do you have any other photos showing what it might have been?

harkey - 05/07/10 - 22:00

The door – it looks like an earlier rendition of the City of Raleigh's seal without the leaves surrounding it.

A.C. Rich - 05/07/10 - 22:47

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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Yes

No

Comment:

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Another Oldie

05/08/10 135 W, 2 I - + 8 - 4

What's the emblem on the door of the 1950 Mack pumper pictured in the prior posting? Same is a city seal, which also adorned this [1950 FWD F-75-T pumper](#). Chassis #785261, serial #115282, with 750 GPM pump and 150 gallon tank. This is old Engine 4, placed in service on March 3, 1950. Then as Engine 2 on January 7, 1956. Then sold as surplus on December 20, 1976. Bid price was \$13,023. Just don't confuse with the [1957 FWD F-722 pumper](#) that subsequently served Hopkins FD.

This was the first modern pumper for the Raleigh Fire Department, which was impacted by war-time restrictions in the 1940s. The last new pumper purchased was a [1936 American LaFrance Series 400](#). One used engine was purchased prior to Station 6 opening in 1943, and that was a [1919 American LaFrance Type 75](#) bought from Farmville on July 13, 1942. Click to enlarge:



Courtesy North Carolina State Archives

Did the seal appear on any other apparatus? Not that I have seen. Two American LaFrance pumpers were delivered in 1951, and I have not seen said seal on either in photos from that period.

Legeros - 05/08/10 - 07:14

War time restrictions?

Curious - 05/08/10 - 14:33

Yes, during World War II, and I believe particularly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, restrictions were placed on usage and consumption of materials and resources around the country, and in private and public sectors. Even base civilian use, such as gasoline rationing. In Raleigh, the fire department was impacted in its inability to purchase new fire apparatus, as well as a delay in rebuilding Station 1, which was demolished in 1941 and a replacement lot purchased, but the construction of the station wasn't done for over ten years later.

Legeros - 05/08/10 - 15:17

During the war civilian motor vehicle production, including fire apparatus, virtually ceased as factory resources were turned toward producing military vehicles or armament. For those relatively few rigs that were produced around this era, you will see a noticeable absence of chrome as the use of certain metals was also almost exclusively focused on defense needs. Bumpers, grilles, and headlight bezels, for example, were painted.

RWECC - 05/14/10 - 06:22

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?

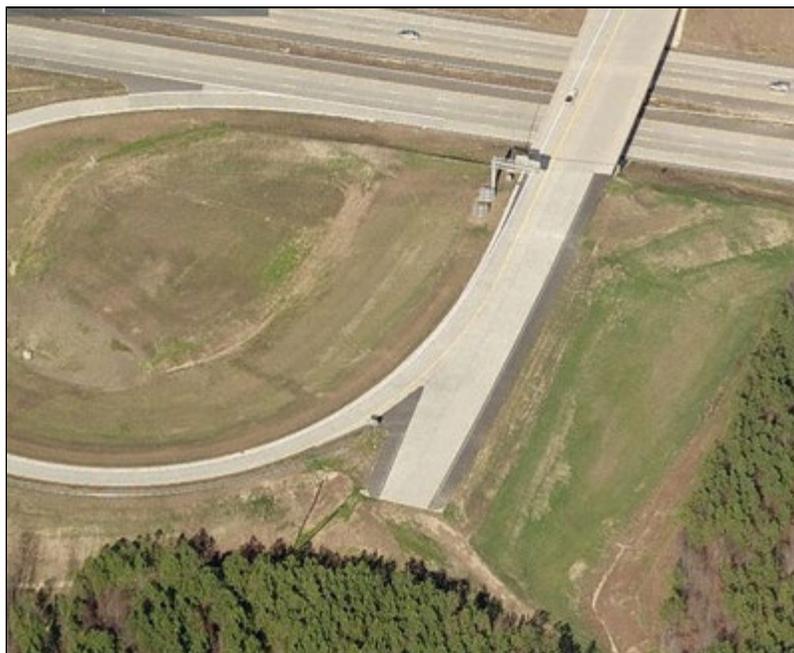
Yes

No

Warning: Interstate 540 Not Completed

05/08/10 80 W, 1 I - + 6 - 5

[This morning's News & Observer](#) reports that a Raleigh man drove off the finished section of I-540 in Knightdale, down an embankment, and into the woods. The driver was ejected, and pinned under the vehicle that landed on top of him. He was transported to WakeMed in critical condition. We've heard that this has happened at least a few times before. Maybe some barricades are in order, if they're not already there.



Bing Maps photo

Additional information from WTVD, <http://abclocal.go.com/wtvd/story?sectio..>

Barricades **are** there. Vehicle apparently took the turn too fast, and smashed through a barrier.

Legeros - 05/08/10 - 07:48

I have noticed that those flimsy aluminum barricades are about 3 inches in front of a 40 foot plummeting cliff. I always thought a nice temporary berm would be in order.

EMT PJ - 05/08/10 - 11:08

Here's your sign.

Buckwheat - 05/08/10 - 12:29

Anyone vote for simply driving too fast approaching the exit ramp?? How about driver inattention? But nope, the news item appeared to blame it on the road – {Couldn't possibly be the driver's fault}.

TimB - 05/08/10 - 17:30

I have to agree with TimB. There are reflective traffic sticks going back for nearly a half mile shunting traffic down to 1 exit only lane. Clearly everyone of these accidents are driver error. I merely thought the addition of a physical barricade could decrease severe trauma from incidents like these even though they shouldn't be happening in the first place.

EMT PJ - 05/09/10 - 01:56

And unless I'm mistaken, aren't there signs that say "All Traffic Must Exit"???

Duda - 05/12/10 - 23:19

As read in <http://www.easternwakenews.com/2010/05/0..>

Third time this year, fifth time since opened. Betcha Jersey barriers are next.

Legeros - 05/13/10 - 08:46

Depends on how badly you want to make the corner ...

http://www.wral.com/news/news_briefs/sto..

Paul - 05/13/10 - 08:56

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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Warning: Do Not Stop in Roundabout

05/08/10 103 W, 1 I - + 6 - 4

And WRAL yesterday reported that the newly installed roundabouts on Hillsborough Street and Oberlin Road are causing some confusion. What's supposed to happen? Cars enter the circle and keep moving. What's not supposed to happen? Cars enter the circle and stop. What's happening then? Crunch and crash. Key quote from a city engineer: "When people stop and you're not expecting it, that's when the issues occur." Issues indeed! Guess you can blame it on (a.) city planners, (b.) aggressive drivers, (c.) them northerners (including me!), or (d.) the Civil War.



(e.) People are stupid.

Paul - 05/08/10 - 08:48

I'd like to see option "c" removed. The history of roundabouts traces back to, yup, the North, New York City to be exact. Click here to find out all you want to know about roundabouts and traffic circles, INCLUDING HOW TO DRIVE IN THEM!!

<http://www.alaskaroundabouts.com/animati..>

I like option "E" Paul, just plain stupidity, no matter if you're a Northerner, Mid-Westerner or a Southerner.

Silver - 05/08/10 - 11:27

I always thought it was a dumb idea to put probably the first major roundabout in the area right in the traffic pattern of a university. Funny thing is the new report on expanding 64 between Apex and Cary now calls for an elevated roundabout right in front of Apex High. Should probably work on improving drivers ed before then.

Joey - 05/08/10 - 11:38

Hmm, interesting web site Silver.

You could easily argue that their before/after examples of traffic circles and roundabouts are the same thing, one is just a lot larger than the other. The principal is still the same, traffic merges from the right and goes (in the US) anti-clockwise.

Paul - 05/08/10 - 15:42

I vote to remove "c" also – these originate from up north, and my recollection of them {Boston area also} is not as negative as others have

posted, except for maybe the 2-lane ones. I would think that "northerners" would know how to use them. Up north, they are called "rotarys", and are very common, they are all over the place.

TimB - 05/08/10 - 17:26

I drove down Hillsborough Street for the first time the other day since the new "improvements." What moron designed this? Everybody hits the brakes as soon as they enter the roundabout. Then they added a median all the way down Hillsborough Street in front of NCSU. What was already a narrow road is now even more narrow! Your tax dollars at work...

John ([Email](#)) - 05/08/10 - 19:37

I doubt the FD was consulted on this project. How much time does Engine 5 add to a response when they need to go east towards downtown using Hillsborough, since Oberlin is now one way for one block?

Do they take Park and go through the neighborhood?

harkey - 05/09/10 - 10:28

People can't drive in General. We had to learn to drive in Europe with them...nobody in my unit seemed to have an issue. The first time I encountered the double lane traffic circle in Iraq, it threw me for a loop...but nobody should have to drive in the green zone.

Kermit - 05/09/10 - 11:27

I wonder if Engine 5 is actually going to benefit from the change. Instead of waiting at Oberlin and Hillsborough (old), they'll have free-flowing traffic with no stoplights (new). They travel maybe two additional blocks in distance, however.

Legeros - 05/09/10 - 11:29

I am also a transplanted yankee from north NJ...we had roundabouts also and after many serious accidents over the years , the highway was redesigned to eliminate those roundabouts and intersections and lights were installed

been there - 05/13/10 - 16:32

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Mystery Car

05/08/10 16 W, 1 I - + 7 - 3

With grayscale obfuscation to make it interesting.



It looks a lot like Range Rover #7 from the Alexahente Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Kleetis ([Email](#)) - 05/09/10 - 22:22

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.

Fire Commission Meeting Agenda, May 13

05/08/10 124 W - + 8 - 3

[Here's the agenda and related documents](#) for the Wake County Fire Commission Meeting on Thursday, March 13, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., at Wake County EMS Training Facility, at the lower level of the Commons Building, [4011 Cary Drive](#). Or [read more information](#) about the Fire Commission.

- Call meeting to order
 - Invocation
 - Roll of Members Present
 - Approval of Agenda
- Minutes
 - Adoption of Minutes for March 18th, 2010, Regular Meeting
- Regular Agenda
 - Fire Budget Committee
 - Recommended FY 11 Fire Tax Budget
 - Consider Recommendation to Appropriate Funds for Radio Preventative Maintenance
 - Consider Recommended Fire Protection Agreement
- 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 15th, 2010.

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

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Firehouse Expo Family Fun & Flea Market

05/08/10 96 W - + 7 - 5

This year's [Firehouse Expo in Baltimore](#) has a Family Fun & Flea Market event scheduled for Saturday, July 24. This appears to replace the traditional Sunday morning apparatus parade, as well as Sunday morning flea market. That's good stuff, the flea market, though the number of vendors had been seemingly dropping in recent years. Mr. Blogger could stand to rent a table, and sell some of the dozens of fire engine models that he has boxed up in his man cave. Maybe one of these years. [Read about the family day.](#)

Will we see you there, Mike? Disappointed about the parade, though. But I always wondered why they intentionally conducted the Flea Mkt & Parade to conflict with each other. Hopefully, the parade will return in '11.

TimB - 05/08/10 - 17:20

Interesting...wonder if this will take away from vendor sales at the convention center?

Silver - 05/08/10 - 23:26

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'?

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

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

Experiments in White Balance

05/09/10 40 W, 2 I - + 7 - 9

[For your Sunday lesson](#) in digital photo post-processing, as shot last night at a stabbing on the south side. Examples of pre- and post- white balance setting. [We've also posted prior examples](#). Click to view:



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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Talking Back to the City of Charlotte

05/09/10 293 W - + 15 - 7

From a reader, here's an [interesting Charlotte Observer article](#) about the city of Charlotte and social media. If we read the thing correctly, the city is planning a city-sponsored Facebook page and Twitter feed. But a recently adopted policy will prevent citizens from posting comments on them. Or, maybe it'll prevent people from reading comments that others post. Can't quite tell.

Why wouldn't city officials encourage comments and discussions? I mean, that's the very *raison d'etre* for social media! They fear legal challenges, the article reports, if they start deleting "the kind of nasty comments commonly hurled in online forums." Unlike a private business, the article adds, the city could be sued for violating free-speech rights.

Interesting approach, and perhaps entirely understandable. It can be very, very, very difficult to read "not nice" comments that are directed in the direction of yourself or your organization. People can get downright nasty in postings, and with more vitriol than they would in person. Or in person and behind a mask, which I guess is comparable to anonymous commenting. (How does that apply to professional mask-wearers? Does Batman post anonymously??)

It can be equally challenging to read respectful but dissenting views. Open the digital barn door, and naysayers and not-likers will cheerfully churn away. And some people don't want to hear other sides. Wonder what industry experts would cite as the ratio between compliments and complaints, in typical social media interactions between consumers and service providers?

The article also mentions the Charlotte Fire Department, which is already using social media platforms. They've served as a test-case for the city, and other departments are now ready to get on board. But carefully. [Read the entire article.](#)

nibble, nibble, BITE! Let me first start off by saying Facebook is the DEVIL (those of you who know me , laugh now). Social Media reared its ugly head at us long after it had infested the cyber world and instigated litigation. Now we (municipal emergency services) are stuck with the dilemma of "do we, or don't we". People have been socially advertising and expressing on the internet for a good 13+ years to my recollection (I got online in '97)...and its not until recently that fire and emergency services have embraced social media as an avenue of public interaction and information. From a public education and marketing stance...this is a good thing!

Beginning with the positive of course, I will say that departments such as Durham and Charlotte have displayed progressive ingenuity with their presence on FaceSpace. Have they had problems? Ask the Admins- who knows? There's always an A\$\$#ole online (AOL). And that's where you start, by asking those who have tried it, and by asking the "fans" to see what they get from it- that's when you determine if its for you (or your dept). If it adheres to the mission and goals of the department- "to further educate, inform, embrace technology..." whatever yours says, then it might be right up your alley. Keep in mind that people supposedly get 40% of their information online now- and the pioneers of online profiles of FD/Emergency Services intended to reach a broader audience and keep their customers informed in a timely manner. Most social media offer a privacy control that will moderate whether or not a fan or user can comment on the page, site, or post. The question is- Is having a Facebook, Myspace, or Twitter account considered a free web page of information- or a blog for opinion? Again- for the user to decide. Or the Supreme Court, if it ever gets that far. I could go on...

The downside is that you are not the owner of the site. Will your agency permit the use of social media, and who will have the final say over whats posted? Also, will the social media interpret your use as a "fan" page or an advertisement or means of marketing. After all, publicity is the goal; and will you eventually be charged for advertising or held to the same standards as a marketing campaign? The bigger issue- who IS the moderator? An Administrator, responsible rank, person in the know? Of course the basics apply...no dead bodies, no incident details, etc. Also bear in mind those that comment with something asinine will probably come off that way to the reader anyway

For public education and information sharing I agree that social media is becoming a more common means of getting your department out there. With "subscriptions" and "fans", many people can be notified instantly- maybe even Mobile by a "Tweet" or a "post"- consider your

incidents where you want the public to avoid the area...an Open House, or a job announcement. To wrap it up and leave a pot stirring, this would be an excellent group discussion amongst stakeholders, department heads, and interested parties ...lets say one afternoon in Knightdale- Training room, limit 30. Round Table- Pro's and Con's. Take notes, have snacks, meet again? Somebody bring a lawyer and a representative from various media outlets. Don't forget the Hawaiian shirted blogger-

J.Boggs - 05/10/10 - 07:21

Here's the Charlotte FD blog, with all manner of feeds and channels available: <http://www.charlottefiredept.blogspot.co..>

Legeros - 05/10/10 - 07:35

Allen Beach likes this.

Beach ([Email](#)) - 05/10/10 - 18:19

Good relevant post: <http://thefirepio.com/2010/02/04/does-yo..>

Legeros - 05/11/10 - 07:26

Organizational controls are of the utmost importance. Social media is a very good tool for emergency services outreach, but it must be maintained accordingly.

A.C. Rich - 05/12/10 - 20:26

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Shop Trucks

05/09/10 126 W, 1 I - + 8 - 10

While we're visiting with old rigs of the Raleigh Fire Department, here are a couple shop trucks from back in the day. They're pictured behind the old shop building, behind Station 2 on Pecan Street.

Left is a 1975 Dodge fuel truck that was based there for many years. It was moved to Station 16 toward the end of its life, and perhaps around the time that its replacement was purchased, a 1998 Ford F Series tanker. What's the model of that Dodge truck, by the way?

Right is a shop-built wrecker named Big Red. The chassis was a Mack COE circa 1954-56. Need to research when the thing was built, and its operational years. Believe it ceased being used in the early Eighties. Click to enlarge:



not a motorhead, but looks like a 600 or Power Wagon

J.Boggs - 05/09/10 - 23:11

Most likely for that era, it was a W300 with either a 440 big block or 360 and a 4-speed NV235 trans or a Torque-Flite 727.

Duda - 05/12/10 - 23:08

Bit of an update on this one. Found log entries showing wrecker still in operation between Feb. 81 and Sep. 83.

Legeros - 09/05/10 - 11:05

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Spreadsheet of Detroit Firehouses

05/10/10 86 W - + 5 - 5

Getting close to travel time. With research from both [web sites](#) and a recent reprint of *Detroit Fire Department Historical Record: 1825-1977*, here's a spreadsheet of Detroit firehouses past and present. That is, those that Yours Truly could compile. Looks like the fire department's occupied some 95-plus structures since their formation as a paid department in 1860. Quite a few are still standing from the turn of century. Watch for photographs, though only of the oldest or those now closed. [View the spreadsheet.](#)

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Wake County Law Enforcement Officer Memorial Ceremony

05/12/10 135 W, 1 I - + 10 - 12

Nineteen fallen Wake County law enforcement officers were remembered in a ceremony in downtown Raleigh on Monday. This was the second year for the event, which was held outside the Progress Energy Performing Arts Center, and in conjunction with National Law Enforcement Memorial Week, which is this week. Nineteen officers from the Morrisville Police Department, North Carolina Highway Patrol, Raleigh Police Department, Wake Forest Police Department, and Wake County Sheriff's Office have died on duty since 1922. [See that list](#), posted last year by WRAL. Media coverage this year appears more scarce. Lee Wilson attended, and posted an [extensive set of pictures from the ceremony](#). Readers, please add additional details about the ceremony, or related events during this memorial week.



Lee Wilson photo

Thank you for the post and thank you, Lee, for the pictures.

RPD - 05/12/10 - 13:43

You're welcome RPD. It was a great ceremony and a beautiful day for it.

lee - 05/12/10 - 14:10

It really is a disgrace that so few officers showed up for this event or that so few firefighters showed up for the parade and ceremony 2 weeks ago! Why can't we take a few hours of our day once a year to go to a memorial?

Mike - 05/12/10 - 18:25

Mike, is it possible that many pay their respects at other times, in other ways, and through the course of the calendar year? There are lots of ways to remember and memorialize the fallen.

Legeros - 05/12/10 - 18:39

I will agree with Mike how sad it is so few officers showed up for the police memorials or the fire memorial this year. We've been fortunate locally – to have not lost a fire-fighter or police officer in the line of duty

Joe Brady ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 05/12/10 - 20:31

there was no one from RFD or Wake EMS at the police memorial Monday (except for an EMS call that was at the location).

lee - 05/13/10 - 13:17

Mike I think you can show support in other ways, but it is still disgraceful not to come out to the memorials on their annual dates! This is when you show the families and the public that we have not forgotten the ultimate sacrifice that they made.

Mike - 05/13/10 - 16:42

There were no public announcements or invitations outside of the law enforcement community, at least not that I heard or saw. Is it possible that, not being invited, the fire and EMS community didn't want to intrude?

There was a fire and EMS presence invited and provided at the Law Enforcement Memorial Run two Saturdays ago.

Skip - 05/15/10 - 08:01

There's also a promotional and communication piece in this, as Skip references. For example, I tend to be in the loop for event planning notices for the firefighter memorial each year, so my awareness level is pretty high. But not everyone may know or hear of what's going on? Or is that an absurd notion? Guess there are a host of factors of why annual memorial events may have lower attendance than desired.

Legeros - 05/15/10 - 10:15

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

[/ Textile](#)

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Raleigh Police Headquarters Open House, Monday, May 24

05/12/10 157 W - + 6 - 6

Speaking of our friends in blue, the Raleigh Police Department has invited the public to an open house of their interim headquarters at [6716 Six Forks Road](#), on Monday, May 24, at 9:30 a.m. The announcement is posted on the home page of the city web site. The office building was purchased by the city in late 2008, and intended as a temporary headquarters during construction of the Clarence E. Lightner Public Safety Center. Though the latter project is in a bit of limbo, the police department proceeded with their relocation.

As [this WRAL story notes](#), the building houses the office of the police chief, records, recruiting, internal affairs, and administrative staff. Other offices were moved elsewhere. Evidence and found property is now housed at the new Downtown District Stationhouse and Evidence Facility at 218 W. Cabarrus Street. And most of the detective division was moved to 4501 Atlantic Avenue.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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No One Was Injured, But a Tanning Bed Was Crushed

05/13/10 27 W, 1 I - + 9 - 5

Sport-utility vehicle versus tanning salon at Brier Creek last night, [as reported by WTVD](#).



WTVD photo

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Cary's Proposed Budget

05/14/10 126 W, 2 I - + 10 - 6

The town of Cary has released their [proposed budget for FY11](#). General Fund expenditures for the fire department are [described in this document](#), with the only significant budget or service level change listed being a Training & Safety Captain upgraded to Battalion Chief. The document also lists performance measures, and activity summaries. The latter includes call volume, number of inspections, public education contacts, annual fire loss, and total training hours.

Capital expenditures are [described in this document](#), starting on Page 19. The "big stuff" for FY11 includes replacement of aerial ladder truck #1446 (\$1.1M), the replacement (and upgrade to heavy-rescue apparatus) of rescue truck #1770 (\$840K), and water and road improvements to the Fire Station #8 site (\$748K) at 408 Mills Park Drive.

how many did cary just hire?

Curious - 05/14/10 - 15:20

The process is still ongoing, but looking like somewhere around 15.

Academy to start July 5th

CFP 7021 - 05/14/10 - 18:44

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

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Eleventh Hour Deal Saves Historic Fire Station

05/14/10 75 W, 1 I - + 8 - 8

The *Charlotte Observer* reports that the old Fire Station 2 has been saved. With heavy equipment ready to start demolition yesterday afternoon, developer Marcel Start held a last-minute news conference and announced that a private "finance package and structure" had been secured to preserve the structure. [Read the entire story](#). Credit Laura-Chase McGehee with this excellent *Charlotte Observer* photo.



Its about time! I'm so glad they were able to save old number 2, Charlotte is notorious for tearing down their history to make way for multi-million dollar condos and other projects, which I think is a shame.

BFD1151 - 05/14/10 - 22:40

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Normal Paramedic

05/14/10 43 W, 1 I - + 11 - 6

Insert own caption. That's a paramedic ambulance of the Normal Fire Department, in Mrs. Blogger's hometown of Normal, IL. Which is next door to Bloomington, IL. Reporting from the road this week.



Well, if you listen to all the Paramedic jokes out there, "normal" would be with a case of cranial-rectal insertion. But I don't necessarily agree...

Duda - 05/14/10 - 11:42

Is there such a thing? "Normal" paramedic? Right.

DJ - 05/16/10 - 08:39

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Before The Crash

05/15/10 50 W, 1 I - + 9 - 6

As found on [Statter911](#), in a slideshow [from FOX8](#), here's a viewer photo of the truck that was struck by the passenger train in Mebane. That low-boy load was about the worst obstruction possible. Credit Fox Community Member JFair.



Two Words that should be on the drivers test. Operation Lifesaver! And common sense for this photographer would have been call 911 first and then take the pic maybe could have made a difference if there was a couple mins between the stuck low-boy and train . Wonder if anyone called 911 on this before it happened? This should have been avoided due to just this pic for sure 3 people could have called 911. The driver first then the person in the car behind the low-boy and then the person taking the photo. Just my two cents.

Duck R3 ([Email](#)) - 05/15/10 - 16:03

How quickly can a train get notified from a 911 call, anyway?

Ring Ring - 05/15/10 - 16:17

Well...from the time the caller calls, it rings, routes to the closest 911 center, operator answers and get key questions answered, determines who needs to be notified (FD, PD, Amtrak, CSX, NS) and assuming that all are notified at the same time...5 minutes best. Then the dispatch center at the train station usually talks to the trains on the route and locks them down while we are on the phone with them, so not to bad as far as some other communication links. 10 mins tops I would say...but I may not know much...

BW - 05/15/10 - 17:18

What we don't know is the time lapse from time the pic was taken until the train struck the trailer. Was there time to stop the train??? Best case is the truck driver paid attention to the warning and this would not have happened..... Stupid people = job security

JK - 05/16/10 - 10:13

I enlarged the pic. It appears that a red RR crossing signal is flashing, and train is upon the crossing.

DLH - 05/16/10 - 21:07

Wondering why the driver is out of the cab of the truck? Maybe trying to unhook the trailer probably so.

Curious - 05/17/10 - 07:19

Discussing Detroit

05/17/10 116 W, 1 I - + 10 - 7

Reporting from the road, and during a short stay in Motor City. Wow, what an urban landscape! While we meaning me works on collecting and posting photos-- both firehouses and other structures-- here's some [nifty video and discussion therein from Dave Statter](#). (Sorry, too busy to write own blog content!) He's posted a pair of YouTube videos of initial operations at a pair of house fires. Resulting reader comments offer opposing takes on "down and dirty" urban firefighting. See what you think. The rain's stopped here, so back to the streets for more photos. Maybe even a worker, if stumbled across.



I love listening to these guys via internet scanner. The size-ups, which are given multiple times throughout the day, are quite simple; "Engine 50 on scene, stretchin' on a dwelling. 56, pull in and dump your monitor". Or, even more simple; "50's on scene, we're stretchin'".

Silver - 05/18/10 - 11:38

Silver, whats the website for that radio traffic? I sometimes listen to Baltimore city and DC Fire through Live Fire Feeds online.

[house] - 05/18/10 - 12:03

I love Detroit. I may be one of the few, but man that city has a lot of character and history!

Unique Christmas Stockings ([Web Site](#)) - 05/18/10 - 12:48

@House; here's the site. Scroll down and you'll find the option of "Listen Live".

<http://detroitfirefighters.net/>

Silver - 05/18/10 - 16:30

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Detroit Postcards

05/18/10 83 W - + 10 - 9

Raining this morning. Michigan Fire Museum might be the ticket, until the skies hopefully clear after noon. Here are some postcards, including a couple municipal buildings from Highland Park, a city nearly entirely surrounded by Detroit. Three former fire stations there. Been shooting those, plus Detroit stations either closed or older than about 1900. And how about those industrial bay doors on the active house below! Many more later. Click to enlarge:

[Missing photos- See this gallery and this gallery instead]

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

Remember personal info?
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No

Comment: / Textile

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No Parking - Fire Route

05/18/10 26 W, 1 I - + 12 - 7

Engine 18 and Ladder 10 at 3812 Mt. Elliott, built 1893. Fire route replaces fire lane as wording on signs around here.



Now that's a firehouse with some character!

AP - 05/19/10 - 08:25

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

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Fourth Time

05/19/10 107 W, 1 I - + 10 - 8

[WRAL reported yesterday](#) that yet another vehicle drove off the unfinished section of I-540 in Knightdale, this time a tractor-trailer that crashed into trees at the bottom of an embankment. The driver was not seriously injured. That's the fourth time in the past year for such an accident. [Today's News & Observer](#) says the DOT is considering such safety improvements as "blinking flashers, more road signs and rumble strips on the pavement." What about physical barriers, although they'll only stop smaller vehicle. Big rigs would probably plow right through.



John Cox/WRAL photo

Hard to see "Blinking Flashers" when you are sleeping!

C.Parker - 05/19/10 - 11:01

All that for yard sale stuff.

Buckwheat - 05/19/10 - 15:41

I vote for some concrete Jersey barriers, with a big pile of dirt behind it. When it comes time to build the road, you can just throw it into the gully that already exists behind there (the "embankment" that everyone keeps driving off of). Then, you kill two birds with one stone — you stop the traffic from using the "alternate exit" that had been so widely talked about, and you have construction materials in place when I-540 is extended further.

CJS ([Email](#)) - 05/19/10 - 18:03

Dont know why its not like the unfinished section of Hwy264 just outside Greenville it has signs, concrete barriers, flashing lights? Wonder if it was left the same as 540 when it was finished and then updated after several people die or hurt?

DuckR3 ([Email](#)) - 05/19/10 - 20:23

For years the Beltline (pre I-440, heck, pre I-40) ended at New Bern Avenue. There were all sorts of signs, along with flashing lights that activated if you were going to fast. The same thing was at US1 and US64 and Apex-Macedonia Rd (now Tryon Rd) to warn you if you were going to fast for the ramp from US64 onto US1 north.

I never recall anyone running off of the Beltline at New Bern Ave. Of course, that was pre- cell phone, texting, etc.

DJ - 05/19/10 - 20:48

I rode through there yesterday and to be honest, it's way too hard to miss that the road is ending, day or night. The merge signs start early, they ave the flexible mounted posts with lots of reflectivity to outline the lane as it bears off to the right, and behind that is three sets of high orange/white fences with big ROAD CLOSED signs. Throwing more money at this won't save anyone, it'll just make it more expensive to replace when the next person dives south off the hill. If they will just finish the road, the problem goes away.

Olson - 05/20/10 - 08:08

Sounds like a good photo project for the weekend, driver's eye view. Watch this space.

Legeros - 05/20/10 - 08:10

they could always just build a big sand pit like a run-away truck ramp at the end... or people could just pay attention....

CFP 7021 - 05/20/10 - 14:45

Went by there today and there were a buch of folks from the DOT out walking around and looking.

Marcus - 05/20/10 - 19:41

You can't fix stupid.

Ron White - 05/21/10 - 18:29

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

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Comment:

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Land of Many Axles

05/19/10 109 W, 2 I - + 11 - 10

Speaking of big rigs, the trucks in Michigan are often equipped with additional axles. Pup trailers-- and with equally many axles-- are also used extensively. What's the deal? Must be for weight distribution, and keeping the roads as best-maintained as possible. Read somewhere that the state does not receive federal highway funds, as well. Anyone know more? The fuel tankers in particular look *huge*. Begs a related question. Wonder how heavier apparatus-- ladder trucks-- affect road conditions in cities? And what costs more over time, fixing the roads or operating lighter ladders? That's what happens on vacation, endless musings.



Based on observations around Detroit, and through-state observations, such trucks appear to be hauling overweight cargo. Such as steel loads. Regular "box trucks" are all regular axle count, however.

Legeros - 05/19/10 - 21:03

I was wondering what my exwife was using to get around town these days. All those extra axles/wheels help her distribute ahem "weight".

And Mike, glad the trip is going well so far! Thanks for the updates!

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 05/19/10 - 23:01

I work for a public safety software company that has several MI police departments as clients. I had to show them our mobile citation module recently and the axle weight issue came up. MI allows trucks to operate at up to 164,000 lbs (most other states allow up to 80,000 lbs), but have very strict requirements on the actual weight of each axle, which varies with distance from other axles. They claim that extensive testing and research by MIDOT shows that it is not the overall weight of the truck that impacts road deterioration, but the weight distribution. After driving on some roads in Michigan earlier this year, I'm not sure I agree...

Barrett - 05/20/10 - 16:25

@Barrett—Lots of good info in your post. Thanks for sharing the behind the scenes real deal scoop. Interesting stuff indeed!

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 05/20/10 - 16:47

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Detroit Former Firehouses

05/19/10 128 W - + 10 - 6

Here's what's likely the remaining old engine houses still standing in Detroit. They include a couple buildings otherwise active: headquarters and the training academy. The last three are Highland Park houses, a community nearly entirely surrounded by Detroit. The first is a former village hall, subsequently a DFD house.

Shown in the order photographed. Utilized a combination of Google Maps, Microsoft Streets & Trips, and Garmin GPS to create and follow a logical route. Took two days, with rain. More views later, perhaps with perspective corrections. Those angles are a bugger. Plus, labels for everything. Plus, many other sights around town. No photographer was harmed during the making of these pictures.

[Missing photos- See [this gallery](#) instead]

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.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

Raleigh's Proposed Budget

05/20/10 261 W - + 9 - 3

The Raleigh City Manager this week announced the proposed budget for FY11. As [this press release](#) notes, the total is 11.1 percent less than the current budget. It eliminates 24 vacant positions, shares health-care costs with employees, and shrinks compensation increase. Other positions have been added, and a number of cost-saving measures highlighted. [Five budget documents](#) have been posted on the city's web site, including the proposed operating and capital budgets.

In the Operating Budget document, the Public Safety section starts on page 135, and the fire department in page 138. The proposed total expenditures are \$50,115,068, which is a 0.7 percent increase from the current amount. The number of positions stays the same at 28 civilian and 540 sworn positions.

The highlight budget changes for the coming fiscal year include delayed replacement of two engines with high repair costs and excessive mileage, delayed uniform replacement in all divisions, delayed replacement of one and purchase of three additional thermal imaging cameras, removed funding for the Capital Leadership training program, removed funding for the child seat installation training program, and reduced funding for public fire education materials.

Also listed are anticipated accomplishments for the coming fiscal year, and a review of accomplishments from the past fiscal year. Plus performance indicators.

In the Capital Improvements document, fire department facility plans consist of Fire Station 12 relocation (FY13-FY14), Fire Station 3 replacement (FY13-FY15), Fire Station 30 (FY15), driver training facility (FY14-FY15), and fire training facility expansion (FY15-). Other items include roof replacements, backup generators, and 800 MHz radios.

[Read the budget documents](#), or [read the budget press release](#).

where would station 30 be built come fiscal year 2015?

charlie ([Email](#)) - 05/20/10 - 10:16

Sta.30 is proposed to be located on Auburn-Knightdale Rd. near the Rock Quarry Rd. intersection. Reading through the budget I see all public safety depts. are being affected by decreased budgets. However, the amphitheater funding has increased. I guess the citizens would rather be entertained than safe. Makes sense to me by judging today's society.

RescueRanger - 05/20/10 - 21:16

What he said....

Silver - 05/20/10 - 23:29

Or maybe they are thinking that the amphitheater will generate revenue

Taxpayer - 05/21/10 - 16:34

Quite possibly. And maybe they're not thinking about the possibility of work-related injuries due to the fact the proposed budget states to not repair items when they break creating a life-safety issue (btw, the city is self-insured.). And maybe their not thinking about the decrease in tax revenue when people start to move away because the streets have become a little more dangerous because there will be less officers patrolling and more down time when vehicles are marked out of service due to worn-out cars. I'm sure John Q. Taxpayer and I could go on for hours about this topic but the fact of the matter is public safety is not important in the majority of the public's eyes until they pick up the phone and call 911.

RescueRanger - 05/21/10 - 20:55

Yeah, what he said...

Silver - 05/22/10 - 00:08

Well said-and to pile on a bit-has profit generation ever been part of the equation for these type city ventures? Whatever happened to the restaurant the city partnered with for several hundreds of thousands of dollars? Has the convention center been within budget? Face it folks-entertainment and pretty circles in the road trump us any day!

Goose - 05/24/10 - 16:25

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preferred)

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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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Wake County EMS Doubles Cardiac Arrest Survival Rate

05/20/10 116 W - + 7 - 8

[NBC17 posted a story this week](#), which is National EMS Week, about cardiac arrest survival rate of Wake County EMS, which has doubled in the last five years. Nationally, 6.7 percent of people treated in cardiac arrest are released from the hospital with good neurological function. In Wake County, it's 13.8 percent. The story also profiles a cardiac survivor, himself a veteran Wake County paramedic.

On Monday night, responders as well as survivors were recognized at an annual ceremony at Fletcher Opera Theater downtown. The event recognizes all personnel in the emergency medical system chain: telecommunicators, first responders, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics. Lee Wilson attended, [and posted his photos](#).

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

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Ends of the Road

05/20/10 124 W, 11 I - + 6 - 4

First and foremost, let's praise our highways around Raleigh. It's an absolute breeze getting from here to there, at least compared to crisscrossing suburban Detroit and suburban Chicago. No problemo! Now onto our exclusive report...

Your Five-O Witness blog team took a trip to Knightdale this evening and discovered three, count 'em three, roadways that end at Interstate 540! No wonder distracted drivers might find themselves unexpectedly off-road.

The most obviously marked ending is southbound I-540, approaching Highway 64. Lots of signage and markers there. But coming from Highway 64 onto Interstate 540, both eastbound and westbound ramps also have short sections that go nowhere. One wrong veer and it's smash time. Click to enlarge, but keep your eye on the road!



Cater to the idiots I guess. HOW DO YOU NOT KNOW IT'S THE END OF THE ROAD?!? 

Silver - 05/20/10 - 23:31

Added signs and markers being added, <http://www.newsobserver.com/2010/05/28/5..>

Legeros - 05/29/10 - 10:44

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Michigan Beauties

05/21/10 135 W, 12 I - + 11 - 4

For your Friday enjoyment, here are handful of classic rigs as photographed at the [Michigan Firehouse Museum](#) in Ypsilanti. The full tour is forthcoming, with more hand, horse, and motor vehicles. Plus an excursion to their off-site storage and apparatus therein. Great museum, from collection to presentation to subject matter.

Left to to right: 1900 Rumsey and Company hand engine, 1900 H. D. Edwards Co. hand reel, 1908 Ahrens steam engine, 1918 Waterous gas engine, 1919 American LaFrance Type 40 pumper, 1931 Ahrens-Fox pumper. Click to enlarge:



Let's add a couple more, shall we? Don't have makes and model years for most of these, at present. That's a hand-cranked engine, a single-tank chemical cart, and double-tank chemical cart, another hand-pulled hose reel, a hand-pulled ladder truck, and a Chief Engineer's car. More motor rigs forthcoming. Click to enlarge:



The Rumsey hand engine was of particular interest to Yours Truly, as Raleigh's last of five hand engines was an 1873 Rumsey and Company. Here's an 1880s catalog drawing of one, which looks pretty close to the pictured apparatus: <http://legeros.com/ralwake/raleigh/appar..> Does that mean Raleigh's 1873 Rumsey engine looked similar? Maybe.

Legeros - 05/21/10 - 07:53

If you have a chance to go to this hidden gem, it's worth the trip from Detroit/Ann Arbor. My in-laws live in AA and I made the trip soon after it opened a couple of years ago. It has well kept and well restored fire apparatus and equipment. Not alot of help from the volunteer when I was there, but alot to look at for the size museum it is.

National Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament, Thursday, June 17

05/21/10 129 W, 2 I - + 9 - 7

The Raleigh Fire Department is hosting the fourth annual National Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament on Thursday, June 17, 2010. The location is Eagle Ridge Golf Club at [565 Competition Road](#) in Raleigh. That's off Old Stage Road, south of 401 and southwest of Garner.

Tee time is 10:00 a.m., but arrive early for complementary breakfast and range balls. Plus the popular putting contest. Entry fee for a single golfer is \$80. That also buys a full meal immediately following the tournament, and where door prizes and trophies are awarded.

[See this web site](#) and [also read this flyer](#)  for more information. It's a fun event, even for photographers. Maybe you can even identify the mystery golfers pictured below. Fore!



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

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/ [Textile](#)

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Cypress Pointe Fire Department Forms in Moore County

05/21/10 118 W - + 7 - 2

Effective July 1, the [Circle V Fire Department](#) (two stations) and Cameron Fire Department (one station) of Moore County are merging, along with the Vass Rescue Squad. The three entities are joining to become the Cypress Point Fire and Rescue Department. A merger of their three service districts was approved this week. Prior to the meeting, a public hearing was held, and no opposition was voiced. The consolidation will yield several service benefits, including reducing overall operating costs, adding specialized rescue equipment, and redistributing resources throughout the district. Sources: [Press Release](#), [FireNews](#), [CFP Station List](#). Optional discussion topic. Fire department versus fire and rescue department versus fire-rescue department. Preferences in naming?

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preferred)
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Remember personal info?

Yes

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

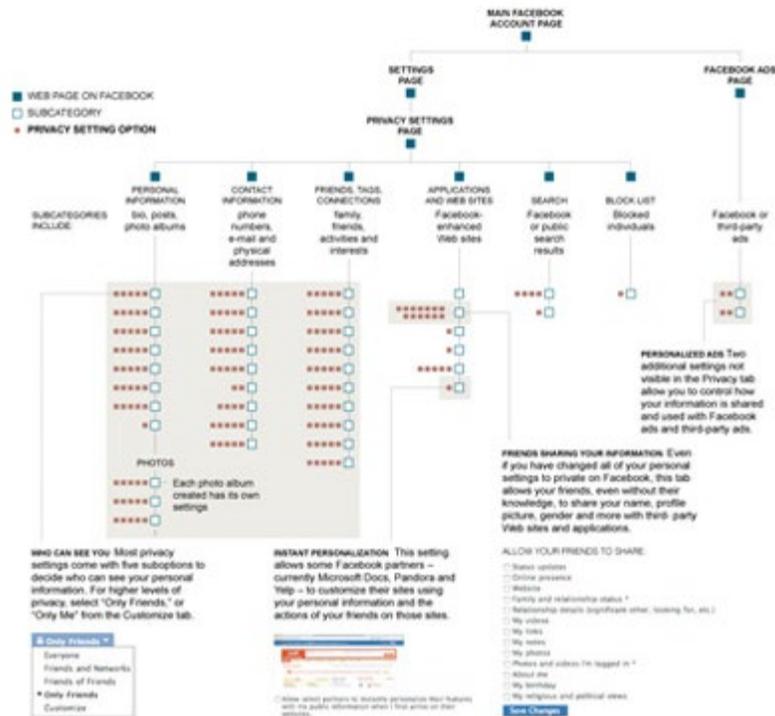
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

Why Facebook Privacy is Confusing

05/21/10 86 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

Guilbert Gates [created this informative chart](#) for the *New York Times*, that clearly shows the confusion behind Facebook privacy settings. Social media should be easy. Facebook requires 50 settings with over 170 options, to manage privacy. That's messed up. For the benefit of our general audience readers, we also omitted the word "damn" from this headline. Facebook privacy is damn confusing. Click the graphic to view the chart. Thanks to Mrs. Blogger for finding.



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Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Carolina Mudcats Local Heroes Night, Friday, June 18

05/21/10 79 W, 2 I - + 11 - 4

The [Carolina Mudcats](#) are holding a Local Heroes Night for responders and their families on Friday, June 18. They play the Mississippi Braves, with gates opening at 6:15 p.m., and game time at 7:15 p.m. The \$5.00 box seats must be purchased in advance, as discounts are not available at the gate. Tickets are available for the first 600 local heroes. [Read this flyer](#) , or click below for more information, and an order form.



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 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment: [/ Textile](#)

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Engine 1792

05/21/10 67 W, 2 I - + 7 - 6

Anyone passing through town has seen Engine 1792 sitting above Capital Boulevard at the state railroad yard. The locomotive and two coach cars were involved in last week's collision and derailment in Mebane. These views are from outside the yard gate. Damage looks less severe than was suggested. And perhaps serves as a graphic demonstration of road versus rail. The train always wins. Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)
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Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Roadside America

05/23/10 69 W, 1 I - + 5 - 7

Barbecue joint in Benton Harbor, Michigan. The city's a couple hours from Detroit, and was a lodging stop on the return trip, to allow more free time around Gary and Chicago before the afternoon flight. [See photos from those explorations](#). The joint wasn't open yet, so I cannot report if their ribs are indeed heavenly. Can I get an Amen?



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.

Joliet Prison

05/23/10 423 W - + 8 - 9

Most recognize this facility from the movie *The Blues Brothers*¹, from the beginning of the film, where John Belushi as "Joliet" Jake Blues is released from prison. You know those scenes by heart. Overhead shot of Jake being escorted through the courtyard. Camera following Belushi as his character is escorted through a cell block. Director and actor Frank Oz returning "one hat, black." The slow sliding of the prison gate, with Belushi backed by bright white light. The character's brother, Elwood, waiting by the car. Etcetera. Great scenes, great movie.

The prison opened in 1858, just outside the city limits of Joliet, Illinois. The buildings-- built of limestone-- were designed by William W. Boyington, the architect whose work also include the Chicago Water Tower and the Illinois State Capitol building. Convict labor was used, and the stone was quarried on the site. (Raleigh's Central Prison, built in the same period, was also constructed with convict labor.) The thing cost \$75,000 to build and had space for 761 inmates. It was the largest prison in the United States, and served as a model for others.

[Missing photos - See [this gallery](#) instead]

[This Wikipedia entry](#), which includes a splendid panoramic photo of the facility's front side, has more history. There was no running water or toilets in the cells until 1910. The opening of the nearby Stateville Correction Center in 1925 was intended as a replacement facility, but didn't happen. A women's prison was built across the street in 1896, and closed in 1932. Beginning at least in the early 1960s, the prison was also used as a reception and classification center for all prisoners in Northern Illinois.

Joliet Prison closed as a holding prison in February 2002, and closed as an intake center in March 2004. The parking lot was renovated in 2009, transforming same into a public park. No interior access is available, at least yet. Looking through the [press releases on this city web site](#), it appears commercial development is desired or perhaps planned for the complex. If nothing else, it's a great place for photographs!

¹The movie was directed by John Landis, who also directed *National Lampoon's Animal House*, *An American Werewolf in London*, *Trading Places*, *Into the Night*, and other favorites of this blogger. [There's a nifty book](#) about the director that was published in 2008. The author is film historian and journalist Giulia D'Agnolo Vallan. The book is an omnibus of essays, interviews, articles, and photographs. Got mine a couple weeks ago. Highly recommended.

As I started looking at your pictures, I immediately heard my inner soundtrack/monologue switch to "One unused prophylactic; one soiled."

Duda - 05/28/10 - 08:53

Name: (real name
preferred)
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Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Reporting Accident Rates

05/23/10 337 W - + 13 - 7

For our Sunday media studies, let's look at this [WTVD story about accident rates](#) in the Highway Patrol. The story was posted on Thursday, and stayed on the home page about a day. That is, if memory serves. Don't know about broadcast versions, as Mr. Blogger rarely watches television. The story was not picked up by any other outlets, nor did it generate many user comments. (That is, seemingly many user comments. They total eight at present, and that might be the norm for stories on the WTVD web site. They seem to have a far smaller community of posting users than the WRAL web site.)

The story is about accident rates. WTVD obtained state records showing that troopers were involved in an average of seven vehicle accidents a week in 2009. Or about one a day. They cite the increase in that rate from the prior year. They also quote a Highway Patrol official, who provides perspective and context. Number of hours that troopers drive each day, the millions of miles they drove last year, etc.

Seems like a reasonably balanced article, at least on the surface. There's some reporting on dollar amounts, for payments to people involved in accidents caused by troopers. They use the language "taxpayer dollars," which is a bit provocative for wording. And you can guess how the thing probably reads to John Q. Public. Our take, however, is that additional information would be nice.

Is the accident rate increasing or decreasing over time, over the span of several years? How does that rate compare with the rates of other state highway patrol agencies? Same for other law enforcement agencies? And if we start comparisons, what are the apples to apples comparisons? The per-mile or per-trooper rates? And what other factors might be impacting accident rates? Changes in numbers of drivers on roadways over time? Changes in routes, road conditions, or total miles driven? And so on. What say readers on this article, and the reporting therein?

No question in my mind that this story was designed to enrage the public. They must be taking lessons from the N&O. Lots of words that didn't need to be there. It's not what they say – once again, it's how they say it. I agree that all the proposed questions you offer, all unanswered, need to be answered by this media outlet to complete the story.

TimB ([Email](#)) - 05/27/10 - 20:40

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

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Yes

No

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Raleigh Fire Department Company Histories

05/23/10 75 W, 1 I - + 7 - 10

Calling all data geeks. Here's a newly updated historical list of [companies and special units of the Raleigh Fire Department](#) . The prior version was dated summer 2008. One more pass is needed, with dates for new apparatus to Engines 4, 11, 28. Working on that. Comments and corrections welcome. Ditto for improvements. There are always better and different ways to record and present this data. Thanks in advance. [Learn more about RFD.](#)

Let's try that again. Reload the above PDF document, now updated!

Legeros - 05/24/10 - 20:05

Mike, if you havent gotten the data on E-4, I will get it to you when I return to town. Also, unless something changed since my departure to my current abode, E-4 is getting E-11's old Pierce, not E-13's ALF....that engine is going to E-28.

Meier - RFD - 05/25/10 - 22:15

Already in service Ang', E4 is sittin' pretty right now. Now if we could just get that distinctive smell in the cab, we'd be good to go. And no, not talking about the smell of hand sanitizer after clearing 600 Newton, haha.

Silver - 05/25/10 - 23:21

Appreciate the update Cini... yeah, you mean that smell that we have on the ladder!

Meier - RFD - 05/28/10 - 02:07

Exactly.

Silver - 05/28/10 - 09:13

Name: (real name
preferred)

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Web Site: (optional)

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hillsborough Street, 1961

05/23/10 160 W, 1 I - + 7 - 6

This expertly composed photograph appeared on the front page of the September 16, 1961, issue of the *The Raleigh Times*. Staff photographer Ken Cooke took the picture that morning at the historic Hillsboro Apartments building, located at [323 Hillsboro Street](#). One resident was killed, and twenty others were displaced by the pre-dawn fire. It was reported by telephone at 2:18 a.m., and was brought under control about 6:30 a.m. The blaze apparently started in the basement of the three-story, fourteen-unit, wood-and-concrete structure. It was built in 1880.

More than 100 firefighters responded. They rescued three residents, one of whom was transported and released. The deceased resident was found in a basement apartment. Over a half-dozen ambulances staged at Hillsboro and Morgan streets. One firefighter was injured, struck on the shoulder by a hose. The Firemen's Auxiliary Coffee Committee, comprised of firefighter wives, also responded and provided food and drink. The loss was estimated at \$70,000. [Click to enlarge:](#)



Ken Cooke/Raleigh Times photo

Speaking of Hillsboro/Hillsborough Street, what is the history behind the different spelling of this name?

Webster - 05/24/10 - 06:05

<http://goodnightraleigh.com/2008/05/hist..>

Legeros - 05/24/10 - 06:37

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Falls Lake Training Exercise Photos

05/24/10 75 W, 1 I - + 11 - 9

Firefighter Mark Peterson [shares photos he posted](#) from the May 8 training exercise at Falls Lake, where Falls, Bay Leaf, and Stony Hill fire departments responded to a simulated collision of two boats on the lake, location not clear, with six people injured, and one ejection. Good shots, Mark. Thanks for sharing. How many lake incidents do area departments respond to, do you suppose? Anyone have stats?



Mark Peterson photo

This was a great training event for us. Thanks to Falls FD Capt. Nick Rhodes for coordinating the activity. Stony Hill, Falls, and Bay Leaf have a great working relationship and typically respond simultaneously to the majority of the "lake based" emergencies. The Falls Lake incidents range from boating accidents, to drownings, to boat fires, to even submerged vehicles. However, it is rare that a person is actually "rescued" from the water ("Bay Watch" style). Usually there are other boaters close by who will remove any injured person from the water. Depending on the patient's apparent condition, the good Samaritan may transport them to the nearest ramp. Otherwise, we will rendezvous with them at the accident location. Falls Lake is also patrolled by N.C. Wildlife and the Wake Co. Sheriff's department and dive services are typically provided by the Youngsville Rescue Squad Dive Team. Incidents occur on a varied basis and varied scope, but we'll typically see anywhere from 1-2 dispatches every 2 weeks in the summer.

A.C. Rich - 05/25/10 - 22:56

And with a reported boat explosion in Durham County this afternoon, I guess the season begins! Four to eight injured, apparently during fueling.

Legeros - 05/27/10 - 21:06

Here's your sign!

ab - 05/28/10 - 00:31

Name: (real name preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes

Blues 'n' Benny

05/25/10 76 W - + 6 - 10

Speaking of the movie *The Blues Brothers*, and its famous closing chase scene, here's a bit of silliness as found on YouTube. The music is the instrumental [Yakety Sax](#), written by James Q. "Spider" Rich, and which was the theme song to the [The Benny Hill Show](#), the longtime British comedy television show that used fast motion-- also called undercranking-- in chase scenes accompanied by said music. Cute homage.

"...Rollers."

Elwood - 05/25/10 - 07:50

"Unnecessary violence...in the apprehension of tha Blues Brothers....has been approved."

Duda - 05/28/10 - 08:51

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Caption This Photo

05/25/10 19 W, 1 I - + 8 - 4

Main attraction on Garner Road this morning, as [reported by WRAL](#).



John Cox/WRAL photo

I swear captain the relief valve was set

Rob Mitchell - 05/25/10 - 19:40

"City Installs First Water Curtain..."

BW - 05/26/10 - 05:30

"Lets call BP...the will know how to handle this!"

Quote - 05/26/10 - 09:05

"Old Faithful, once thought to be an natural wonder unique to Yellowstone, made a traveling appearance..."

CJS ([Email](#)) - 05/26/10 - 13:46

Town of Garner got "excited" about there new station!

East - 05/26/10 - 13:53

The City of Oaks has become the City of Soaks!

c.hydrant - 05/26/10 - 15:41

"Make it rain!!"

CTK - 05/28/10 - 12:27

Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

Falls Fire Department Public Safety Day, Saturday, June 5

05/25/10 69 W, 1 I - + 13 - 11

Time for another Public Safety Day at [Wakefield High School](#) on Saturday, June 5. Sponsored by the [Falls Fire Department](#), the event is scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Food, drinks, games, prizes, fire extinguisher demos, the whole nine yards. Plus more emergency vehicles than you can shake a stick at. See you there!



What other public safety events are upcoming?

Legeros - 05/25/10 - 20:55

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Ride Along a Runway

05/25/10 106 W, 1 I - + 11 - 5

Here's something fun from Google Maps street view. Enter [Industrial Drive, North Wilkesboro](#). That road is the runway of the original Wilkes County Airport, which built about 1962 or 1963. It was depicted in aeronautical charts as having a 3,600-foot, hard-surface runway, which was later lengthened to 4,250 feet. The airport was closed between 1987 and 1990, and replaced by a newer, larger county airport to the northeast. The runway remains intact, along with what looks like at least one hangar building. It's used a road to access Rivers Edge Park.

Source: [Abandoned Little-Known Airfields: North Carolina: Charlotte area](#).



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.

Mail, Web, Privacy, Spam

05/26/10 317 W - + 10 - 7

Pursing the morning headlines. [Facebook announces simpler privacy controls](#). Guess we believe them. But they're in a business to make money, and means to ends may erode their efforts over time. Makes me think about mail, and mailing lists, and [spam](#). Raise your hand if you've ever clicked "click here to unsubscribe" from a commercial mailing list mailing, and then received more mail from the business in subsequent weeks or months. Gee, the whole room has their hands raised.

Should we be surprised that businesses opt to opt uses back into their lists, even after the users opt out? Guess not. At the end of the day, when all decisions are weighed, the bottom line apparently comes first. Sure, the customer is always right. But for so many companies using the online channel and e-mail marketing, the answer appears otherwise. Ditto for creating user accounts that ask or require e-mail addresses. You uncheck all the options for notifications. Yet you are still sent notes that you didn't ask to receive.

Maybe it's just too tempting. Marketers can't help themselves, with a big, long, fat list of customer mail addresses. Or maybe the math works out in their favor. Despite complaints and people not liking the electronic bullying, the solicitations work. They bring in the bucks. That's what I have always heard about those annoying subscription cards in magazines. Everyone hates them-- magazine editors even acknowledge that fact-- but they work. They produce a percentage of subscriptions.

Lucikly, we have the power to filter our mail. Or create second and third and fourth addresses, just for online ordering. Heck, if you have a blog, you stand on a podium and rant. Maybe I should start naming names. Might do that some time.

Updates:

May 28 - Received solicitation from zazzle.com. Requested removal from subscriptions via clicking within e-mail. We'll see what happens.

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - Motor Vehicle Accident with < Mail, Web, Privacy, S... > 1949 or 1950? Injuries

Motor Vehicle Accident with Injuries

05/26/10 66 W, 1 I - + 13 - 9

Durham Highway Pumper 4 and Rescue 5, Raleigh Engine 23 and Ladder 6, Six Forks EMS 123 and District 4, and Wake County EMS Medic 95 on westbound Interstate 540, west of Leesville Road. Dispatched about 4:54 p.m. Canon Digital Rebel XT in manual mode, no tripod, stitched using [AutoStitch v2.2](#). Click **once or twice** to enlarge, depending if your browser automatically resizes oversized images to window width:



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.

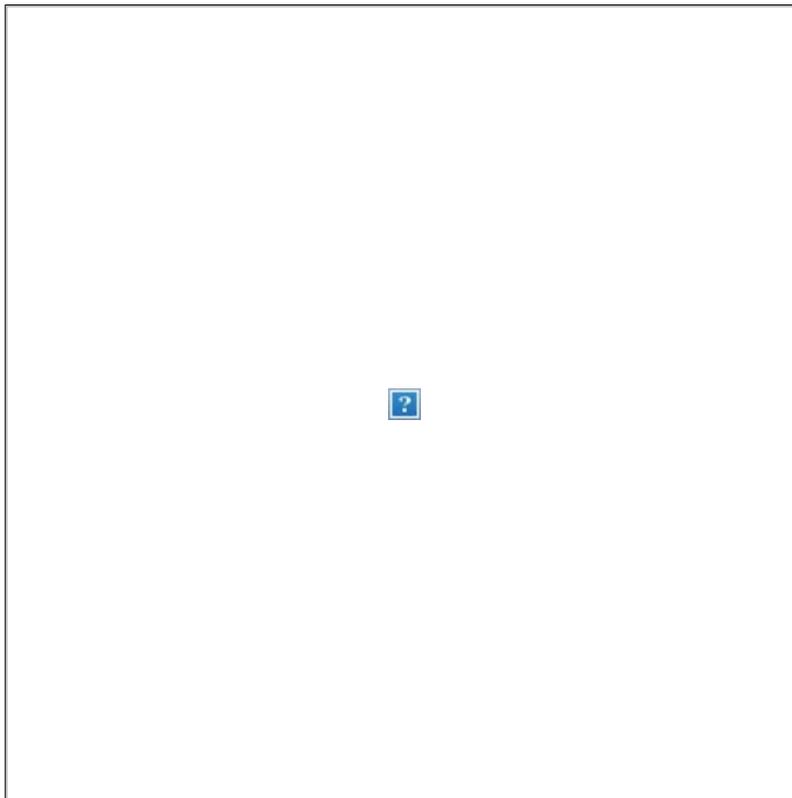
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

1949 or 1950?

05/27/10 191 W, 2 I - + 9 - 6

Sometimes you get confused. The first modern pumper delivered in Raleigh after World War II was an FWD F-75-T. But was the model year 1949 or 1950? Lately the latter's been what I've been citing. Looking at my [Raleigh apparatus register](#), which is my "master data," the [entry for the engine](#) reads 1950.



This morning at the training academy, giving a history talk to the recruits, a slide of mine said 1949. Oops. Does the slide need updating, or the web page? Time to consult paper records, and see which year is the right year. And then blog about it-- which we're doing now-- to better commit the answer to memory. (Little secret, that's the reason for a lot of blog postings.) Let's see what this says:

EQUIPMENT NUMBER	MODEL & MAKE	
1	1936 American LaFrance	
3	1951 American LaFrance	
4	1950 FWD	
5	1951 American LaFrance	
6	1950 Mack	
Aerial Truck	1915 American LaFrance	
Service Truck	1922 American LaFrance	
3 (old)	1926 American LaFrance	(wrecked one, parked at the Shop)
5 (old)	1922 American LaFrance	(still in service)
6 (old)	1926 American LaFrance	(still in service)
Squad Car	1968 Ford 3/4 Ton Pickup	

So 1950 is the answer, right? Maybe not. The above lists 1915 as the model year for the American LaFrance aerial ladder, which was a 1916

model. The company has verified that date. Can the FWD model year be trusted? Maybe. The other years are right. Guess we'll keep looking. Or maybe someday stumble upon the original truck. History (and historians) never sleep.

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Opinions on Traffic Deaths

05/28/10 141 W - + 12 - 6

Today's *New York Times* has a nifty discussion titled [Do We Tolerate Too Many Traffic Deaths?](#) Nine experts offer opinions and perspectives on the subject. Some of the interesting factoids include... It's the leading cause of death for people aged 1 to 34 in the United States... We're the leader in traffic fatalities in Western nations... Driving under the influence is the leading cause of traffic deaths... Speeding is a factor in a third of deaths... One person killed in this country every 13 minutes is the historical average. The columnists discuss strategies ranging from regulation to technology. End of the day, however, we are a nation of cars. Driving is a right, right? And, as author Tom Vanderbilt posits, we as a society are willing "to tolerate huge numbers road deaths every year." Discuss a desired.

Driving under the influence... Almost everybody publicly says "drinking and driving is bad, mmmkay?", but in reality, even most of those same people will drink and drive themselves (yes, I'm talking about those in our professions). Since driving after drinking "some" is OK and legal, it's too easy for someone to convince themselves they're fine. And if our own people can convince themselves they're not "that drunk", the general public doesn't stand a chance. I would be fine with a .00 limit while driving, but I realize the vast majority of the public wouldn't support such a law. I can understand the NEED to drive, but why do we also have the NEED to drink?

[rfburns] - 05/28/10 - 09:41

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Charlotte Fire Station 40 Opens

05/28/10 91 W, 1 I - + 14 - 11

Forty, count 'em, forty fire stations! As [their Facebook posting](#) announced this week, Charlotte [Fire Station 40](#) opened on Monday. The nearly 12,000 square-foot facility is located in northeast Charlotte at [9720 Harrisburg Road](#). The station was added to address service level needs due to annexations. Engine 40 was placed in service in July 2009, and was temporarily housed at Station 34. It has responded to 1,198 calls since then. Beginning July 3, Ladder 40 will be placed in service. Information on a public open house and dedication ceremony is forthcoming.



Charlotte Fire Department photo

dont they still have two more stations in the planning stages???

Aaron - 05/29/10 - 11:38

Station 41 is open now in temporary facility at the airport. The new station 41 should be open sometime in June last I heard. I believe they just broke ground on Station 42 near Eastland Mall.

[bafd424] - 05/29/10 - 13:59

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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Older and Newer

05/28/10 76 W, 1 I - + 9 - 7

Parked for the occasion of a retirement party at Station 18 yesterday is a [1982 Mack CF pumper](#), the last of 15 closed-cab beauties that were first delivered in 1970. Has it really been 40 years since? The other engine is a [2000 Quality/Spartan MetroStar](#), one of eight delivered between 1999 and 2002. Or should that be listed as Spartan/Quality? [See more photos](#) from yesterday, and congrats Capt. Bailey. See you on the other side! Click to enlarge:



You know, those Macks (and the ALFs) had character. Something the new ones, well, don't. I would, however, like to see them take that silly light bar off of the Mack and put one of the old Federal 184 beacons on it.

DJ - 05/28/10 - 16:38

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Filling the Boat Pool

05/28/10 24 W - + 9 - 5

Log book entry, August 14, 1957.

Engine Co. 1 went to Pullen Park @ 1:00/pm to 2:00/pm to fill boat pool.

Enjoy your weekend.

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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Bear Necessities

05/28/10 138 W, 1 I - + 9 - 10

And an animal story from Asheville, where Wednesday a black bear wandered into town about lunchtime. Police officers stayed close, as did numerous onlookers, as Yogi wandered from Beaumont Street to Biltmore Avenue to Ashton Street and South Lexington Avenue.

The creature spent some time at the First Presbyterian Church, [this Citizen-Times article](#) notes, where it "contentedly munched on berries." Unknown if grace was said before eating. The newspaper also posted some nifty and lengthy [video footage](#) with the story.

Now when you pick a pawpaw, or a prickly pear; and you prick a raw paw, next time beware. Don't pick the prickly pear by the paw; when you pick a pear, try to use the claw. Sound advice from songwriters Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman.



Bill Sanders/Citizen-Times photo

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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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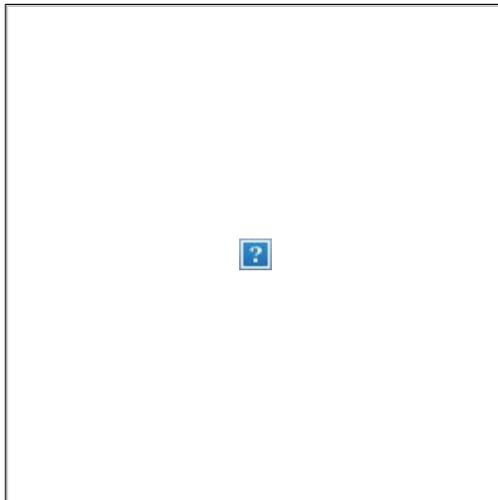
To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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HoodLoupe

05/29/10 52 W, 1 I - + 9 - 10

Another neat accessory that we've read about-- but not tried, just yet-- for viewing your DSLR display panel in sunlight. Wear around neck, and you'll even look either (a.) more professional or (b.) more like a geek. Is there such a thing as "whacker" in photography?? [Read more.](#)



It the term can apply, it surely already does to you, sir. :^{D

Duda - 05/29/10 - 15:21

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.

Spruce Pine Tanker

05/30/10 76 W, 1 I - + 9 - 9

Photographer Lee Wilson is spending his holiday weekend in the North Carolina mountains, and is taking pictures of apparatus in those parts. He's posted photos of a tanker recently received by the [Spruce Pine Fire Department](#). The very red 1995 International carries 2,300 gallons and is equipped with a 750 GPM pump. Designated Tanker 11, it was purchased from Calgary in Alberta, Canada. Love the lettering! [See more photos](#), or click to enlarge:



Lee Wilson photo

Man, it looks like it would be top heavy!

Rob Mitchell - 05/30/10 - 13:12

it may be top heavy but i bet they arent speedin up or down those mountains for it to really matter.

Aaron - 06/03/10 - 03:45

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

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment:

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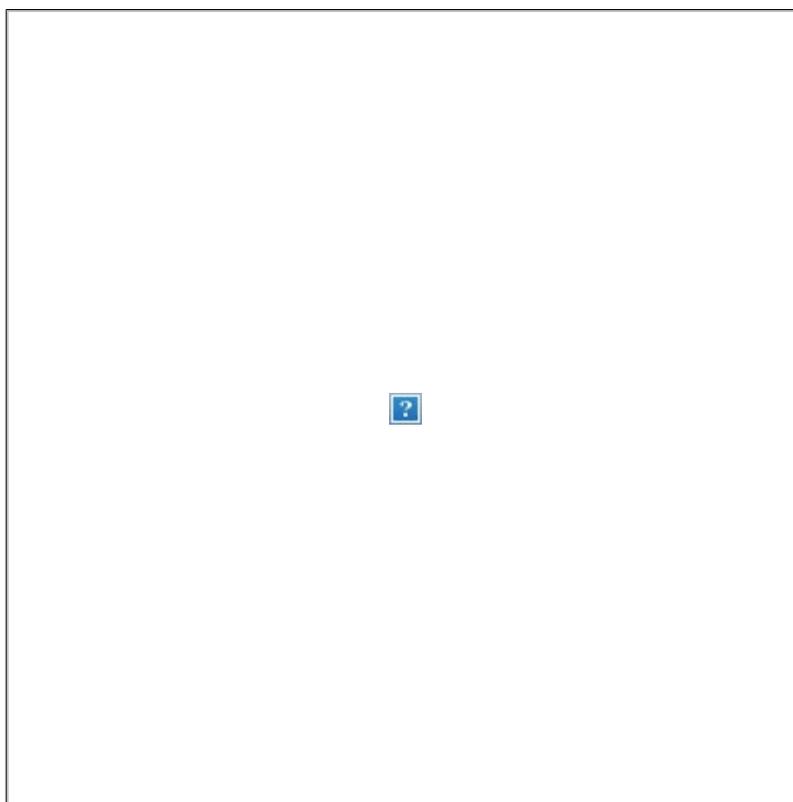
Origin of Term "Service Ladder Truck"

05/31/10 311 W, 1 I - + 8 - 9

[Four years ago on the Firehouse forums](#), I posted a query asking the origin of "service ladder truck." No historical answer presented itself at the time. The question has continued to pop in and out of my head. (There are lots of holes in that thing!) Last night, I might have found the answer and while reading Matthew "Matt" Lee's *A Pictorial History of Seagrave Fire Apparatus*. The 2006 version, that is, updated from an earlier version. The hardcover volume is self-published and has almost 400 pages of gloriously reproduced apparatus pictures. It was released for the occasion of Seagrave's 125th anniversary.

Let's go back in time to the days of hand-drawn ladder trucks. Seagrave made them, and as a means to transport their ladders. (Frederic Seagrave made ladders at the beginning.) Lee notes on page 15 that "plain, unsprung ladder trucks" were "referred to as village ladder trucks." And "as the weight and size of the trucks grew," they became "city service ladder trucks." The trucks grew in size, we can infer, because they added features desirable for larger towns, taller buildings, and heavier usage. e.g., longer ladders, more equipment, wheel springs, rear tillers assemblies, etc.

Ergo, these ladder trucks were designed for service in a city. Or city service. And thus became known as city service ladder trucks¹. And which became shortened over time to service ladder trucks, or even service trucks. What do you think? Sounds plausible to me.



Jeff Harkey photo of Raleigh Truck 12

¹(City) service (ladder) trucks have been long-defined as ladder trucks that carry ground ladders but are not equipped with aerial apparatus. There's also a related ISO definition called a "service company," which is an apparatus equipped with a minimum complement of specific ground ladders.

Truck Versus Pop

05/31/10 70 W, 1 I - + 12 - 5

Here's your Memorial Day safety tip. Beware fully-loaded pop cans. This piece of metal traveled several feet across a Wade Avenue exit ramp this morning, after it's container was crushed by a slow-moving semi. Pop went pop, and loudly at that! Unknown if diet or regular. Happy holiday, and travel safe. Oh, and for extra credit, name the mystery firefighter.



Could it be the one and only CFP 7021?....STAY SAFE out there today Brothers...FTM-PTB-EGH

Craig McDowell - 05/31/10 - 10:44

'tis not I

CFP 7021 - 05/31/10 - 11:10

think BIG

small - 06/02/10 - 14:17

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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Raleigh Fire Prevention Courses, 1957

05/31/10 188 W - + 7 - 10

In early December 1957, several Girl Scout troop members became the first teens in Raleigh to graduate from a new "batty sitting course" created by Raleigh Fire Chief Jack Keeter, and sponsored by civic organizations. Award certificates were presented by Mrs. Tobias Goodman of Wake-Raleigh Civil Defense. Among the topics in the course included a police detective lecture on how to cope with burglars. Source: *Raleigh Times*, December 4, 1957.

This early announcement was posted in print: "Home Fire Fighting & Prevent Course are being taught by the Bureau of Fire Prevention, Raleigh Fire Department. The Wake County Home Demonstration Office, the Wake County Chapter of the Red Cross, the Raleigh Rescue Squad, the Detective Bureau of the City Police Department, and the Fire Prevention Bureau are cooperating in a Training Course for Baby Sitters.

"This course is cosponsored by the Raleigh Fire Department and the Raleigh-Wake Woman's Civil Defense Council. Clubs and other groups interested in either the Fire Fighting Course or the course for Baby Sitters should call Captain John W. Holmes, Chief of the Fire Prevention Bureau, TE 2-7735."

Little more about this. The course lasted 18 weeks, and about 100 girls attended. The curriculum included not only child care, but instruction in "food, emergency first aid, fire prevention, and uninvited prowlers." The sessions were opened with B.T. Fowler, a member of the Fire Prevention Bureau, at the Red Cross House on North Blount Street. He "advised the Scouts to become familiar with the house in which they are baby sitting and to know where to reach the parents by telephone. If they can't be reached at all times, he said, have the name of a close friend or relative to call in an emergency." He gave instruction on the "best methods for getting out of a house in case of fire" and also showed a film titled "Too Young to Burn." Source: Unidentified newspaper clipping.

Legeros - 05/31/10 - 11:55

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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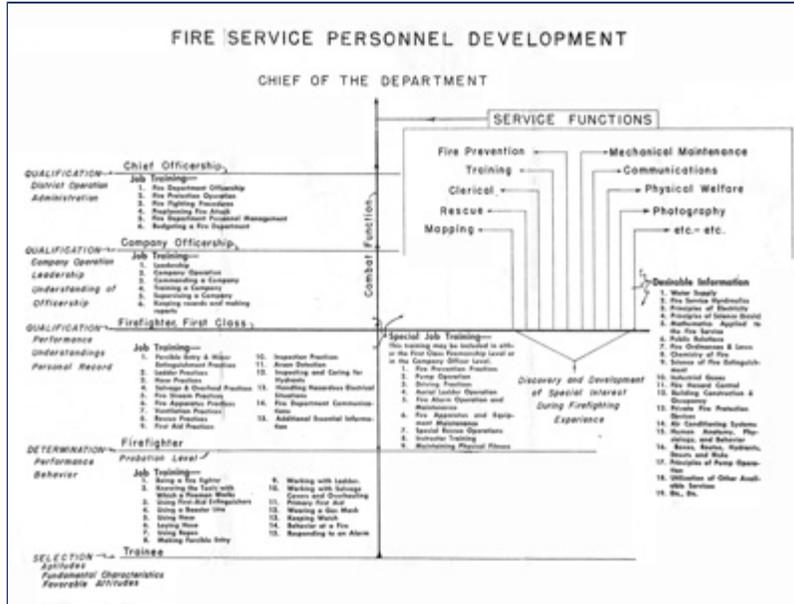
[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Fire Service Personnel Development

05/31/10 48 W, 1 I - + 11 - 8

Spring cleaning here at Blog Central. Might have shared this before, an undated chart used by Raleigh fire administration in an earlier decade. Maybe 1960s or 1970s? Unknown if the thing was created here, or obtained elsewhere. 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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([Register your username / Log in](#))

How to Remind a Parent of the Baby in the Car?

06/01/10 124 W - + 13 - 11

That's the title of an [interesting article in today's New York Times](#), about ideas for solving the problem of a parent forgetting that their baby's in the car. Says the National Safety Council, about 30 children a year die in such situations. Many are accidental, with parents or caregivers inadvertently leaving them in the vehicle. Technology could come to the rescue, though liability issues are also present. What happens if the device doesn't work? Or maybe behavior modifications are the answer. Suggestions one organization, leave a personal item with the child. Purse. Phone. Presumably, you'll remember the item, and thus the child. Obviously, these are exceptionally rare incidents, though even one is a tragedy.

As referenced in the article, read this Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington Post piece about the human side of these accidents, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/con..>

Legeros - 06/01/10 - 07:08

As a new father, I dread the thought of leaving the kiddo in the vehicle. Fortunately, if I have him by myself, I'll be in my truck and he's right beside me. If he's in the car, so is my wife. Now if we BOTH forget about him, shame on us. I've always thought kids should be injected (for lack of a better term) with an RFID tag like dogs get for tracking purposes. Yeah, that brings up all kinds of Bog Brother problems, but you could make it so that you have a key fob that alarms when it gets out of range of the kid's RFID. I have yet to work out the details, but it's in-process. Look for a patent soon...

Duda - 06/02/10 - 12:35

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Distracted Driving on Construction Sites

06/01/10 22 W, 1 I - + 11 - 13

Seen in downtown Raleigh. Sign of the times, I guess.



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Numbers and Revisions

06/01/10 312 W, 1 I - + 12 - 12

Memorial Day saw sorting stacks of papers in the man cave. Quite a few contained handwritten notes on Raleigh Fire Department history. They'd been placed aside, either for filing or File 13. Incidents, apparatus, personnel, the usual stuff. The notes had been taken during research, at libraries while reading microfilm. Or at fire stations, while skimming log books.

Each sheet's information had presumably been recorded in my digital files, but I double-checked. One piece of paper included personnel totals for a couple decades in the last century. You know, how many people were in the department. No source was noted, however. My bad.

For 1950, was jotted, the total positions numbered 84. Opened my master data spreadsheet, and saw the number 63 for that fiscal year. The source was a Sanborn fire insurance map from October 1949. So which was correct? 84 or 63? Looking at adjacent years, and the total positions in FY49 was 67. The total in FY51 was 82. Sources for both were budget docs. Conclusion? The total positions in FY50 was more likely 84 and less likely 63.

With the master data corrected, the next step was updating any documents or web pages that contained that personnel count. First for revision was my [Raleigh Fire Department history chart](#) , which contains a decade-by-decade summary of such numbers. Updated the Word document, exported a PDF version, and uploaded to web site via FTP.

Next were presentation slides, which also contain a decade-by-decade summary. (City and station map, which [looks like this](#), plus number of personnel and other demographics.) The slides are part of my history talks, given to new recruits, conducted on-demand for personnel, and occasionally offered for public audiences.

And that might be all. The [per-decade timelines](#) do not cite such numbers. No other documents jump out, from my [Raleigh Fire Department history pages](#). But that's the rub of accuracy. Better facts often translate to retroactive changes.

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

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

What Does Social Media All Mean?

06/02/10 98 W - + 13 - 7

Discussion topic for the day. There's a [good discussion brewing](#) over on The Fire Critic, about page views and social media networking. Rhett writes in response to a [Firefighter Hourly posting](#). Dave Statter adds an eloquent opinion in his comments to the Critic's post, including a great perspective of what works for fire service blogs. Note his language about open exchange of ideas. Ditto on censorship, which, cough, cough, we have long performed (albeit infrequently) here, but presumably for a greater good. Maybe it's led to a greater bad? Discuss as desired.

I posted a couple comments on the above Fire Critic thread, <http://firecritic.com/2010/06/new-media-..>

On censorship, including "Censorship is the trickiest thing that I have faced, and continue to face. I am not a fan of not nice. But I should be more trusting, perhaps. Our local departments are bigger and stronger than the effects of any south-heading blog comments, I believe. Damn delete key."

And to which Dave Statter posted some great information about managing "toxic comments."

On blogging about "bad press" stories, including: "What's the role of the buff-blogger in such situations? Am I really a citizen journalist, who should step to the plate, and provide (one more) outlet for that information? I have concluded over time that my role (as buff-blogger, not amateur journalist) is a function of value. Will the posting (and comments therein) add value? Does the posting add "something" to the perception, participation, awareness, or discussion of the-bad-thing-that-happened."

Good stuff. Go over and read!

Legeros - 06/03/10 - 06:37

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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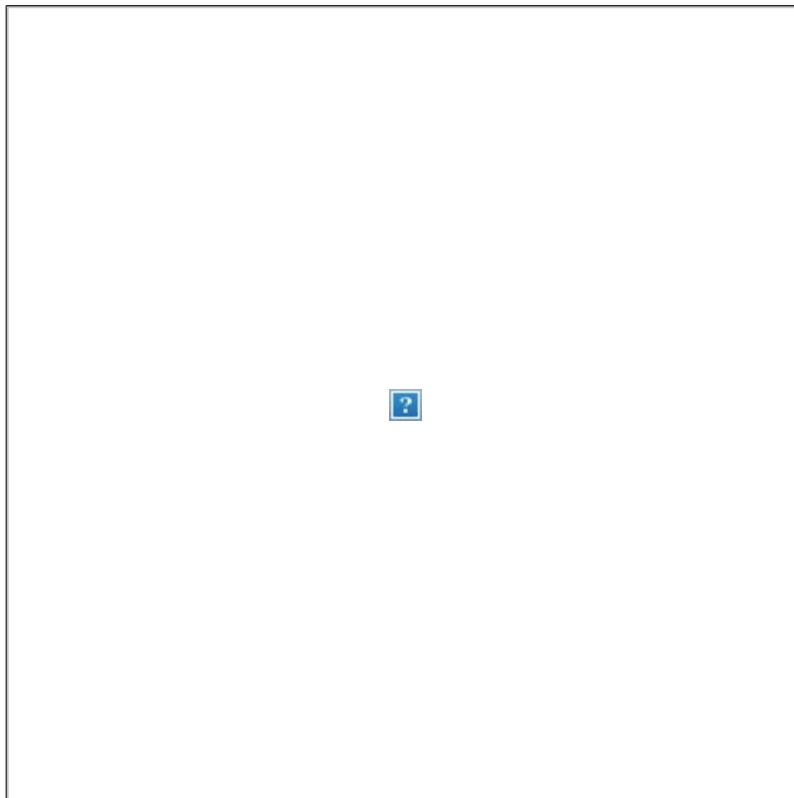
Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

Rocky Mount Receives New Fire Chief

06/03/10 82 W, 1 I - + 12 - 13

This [Rocky Mount Telegram story](#) reports on the new head of the [Rocky Mount Fire Department](#). Fire Chief William L. "Trey" Mayo , who is well-remembered in Raleigh. He started his career in the fire service with the Raleigh Fire Department, and left as a Captain to become Deputy Chief of Carrboro. Chief Mayo met with city employees at a reception on Wednesday. Congratulations, Trey! [Read the story.](#)



Ben Goff / Rocky Mount Telegram photo

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Lighter and Lower Profile

06/03/10 91 W, 1 I - + 14 - 13

You've read about the [flat-pack breathing apparatus](#) that's being developed, right? Light, lower profile. Why hasn't someone developed a lighter, and lower-profile fire helmet? But wait, they have! French and other European crews [already use the things](#). Have for decades. Guess it's a different amount of tradition, and change to adapt from. Seventy-some years for the yellow bottles on your backs, versus leather lids that date a couple centuries in origin. Just something I was thinking about.



Personally, I'm one for tradition. I don't particularly care to look like a race car driver in a fire. The reasons for the brim on our helmets (traditional and modern) are to keep hot water and debris from falling on our heads and down our necks in a fire. I'll grant that I'm sure in some ways a full-wrap helmet like the Euro version pictured are advantageous, I prefer to have my ears protected by the fabric provided and be given a better opportunity to hear the faint cries of trapped victims and to hear what the fire is telling me by its sounds. I also would rather have the water falling on me sheet down my back and over my shoulders than directly down toward my collar. It also doesn't seem like the European helmet has much room to attach equipment that we firefighters tend to need and use in many different situations.

But I digress...

Duda - 06/04/10 - 09:02

How about the blend, <http://www.gtj.org.uk/storage/components..> ?

LJM - 06/04/10 - 09:16

I used one of the old MSA ones that they had for a while! Didn't like it, yes it's lighter and no brim to hit the bottle. But even with our ear flaps and hood on you can feel when you get to hot on those old ears and with the euro style you can't. The other thing alot of the euro firefighters to go as deep into the fires as we do!! Leather forever stay low and let it blow! be safe brothers and sisters! lol, egh jason

Jason Lane - 06/06/10 - 00:04

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

It Can Happen Here

06/03/10 64 W - + 15 - 12

Random posting recommendation. [EMS blogger 9-ECHO-1](#) on the active-shooter incident in Apex. e.g. DJ on this blog. Was also first medic unit on scene that day, which meant entering the building with police with weapons drawn. [Read all about.](#) Then, as he advises, go dust off that plan for active shooter training. You never know when you'll need it.

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Letter to the Editor

06/03/10 132 W - + 13 - 10

This was published in the *News & Observer* today.

Speaking of delayed municipal building projects ([May 29 Triangle Politics item](#)), Central Fire Station on South Dawson Street took 12 years to complete. Its predecessor - built in 1896 for \$4,000 on West Morgan Street - was condemned in 1939 and demolished in 1941. The replacement site was promptly purchased and a two-story brick building, housing the fire alarm system, was erected in the rear of the lot. That small structure was completed in 1942, and still stands.

The fire station took longer to build, in part a result of restrictions on materials and projects during World War II. The fire station was final constructed in the early 1950s, and opened on Oct. 5, 1953. The \$142,106 building still serves as Fire Station 1.

Mike Legeros
Raleigh Fire Department Historian

Hats off Mike, it would be nice to bring up also understaffing of apparatus in the fire department due to medical, retirement, and members leaving for other reasons. Raleigh fire, and the city are a great place to work but the fire is often over looked or said they can get by with those numbers. 3 Engines 3 on Ladders, 2 on Rescues. Min should be 4 on Engines, 4-5 on Ladders, 4 on Rescues always no less that would increase public and firefighter safety! Just my two cents.

DuckR3 ([Email](#)) - 06/03/10 - 20:16

Minimum staffing on ladders is now 4 as they are considered priority assignments as opposed to the old system of prioritizing outline stations.

RFF - 06/04/10 - 13:22

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](#))

Cary's Old Service Truck

06/03/10 105 W, 1 I - + 10 - 11

Photographer Lee Wilson last week found a former Cary rig, recently relocated to the Blue Ridge Mountains and serving the Parkway Fire Department in Mitchell County. PFD was created in 2001 as a merger of Altapass (1984-2001) and Grassy Creek (1964-2001) fire departments. That's near Spruce Pine, which itself absorbed Estatoe FD (1988-2003). Anyway, back to the rig. The 1995 Seagrave/Marion service truck was received by the department in April. It's designated as Rescue 2. Wonder what other old local rigs can be found in the western part our state. [See all of Lee's photos from his recent trip.](#)



Lee Wilson photo

Good looking rig. I am pretty sure this truck was at Brindlee Mountain in Alabama a few months back. I was there on some apparatus business and got a chance to look at it before it made the trip to Parkway.

Chris - 06/04/10 - 10:50

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Durham County EMS Celebrates 35 Years

06/04/10 97 W, 1 I - + 16 - 10

From the *Durham Herald* this week comes [a short story on Durham County EMS](#), which celebrates its 35th year of service. They started May 31, 1975, after the county took over the ambulance service. Then they had six ambulances and 24 emergency medical technicians. Now they have 12 ambulances and about 132 employees, who answered more than 28,000 calls last year. Their funding through the county comes from a trust fund, which was created when Duke and Durham Regional hospitals merged. That and fees charged to users of the ambulance service. [Read the story.](#)



Durham Herald photo

Each county fd operates a medic unit on top of what the county ems runs.

dc - 06/04/10 - 15:35

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Fire Department Hosts Fire Ops 101 For City Council Today

06/05/10 114 W - + 12 - 12

On Saturday, June 5, today, the Raleigh Fire Department will host its initial Fire Department Operations 101 class for the Raleigh City Council, a "freshman-orientation" to the daily grind, the risks, and the rewards that Raleigh firefighters deal with each day. The training session, starting at 8 a.m. at the Keeter Training Center, is being undertaken by several members of the Raleigh City Council. They will go through a series of training sessions required by both emergency medical technicians and firefighters and then put those skills to use in a mock disaster scene. Media are invited to attend the training sessions. [Read entire press release.](#)

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Volunteers Wanted For Fire Expo in August

06/05/10 67 W - + 14 - 9

The [Wake County Firefighters Association](#) is seeking volunteers to assist during the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#), being held at the Raleigh Convention Center August 11-14. Participants will be given a free conference pass and a t-shirt. Please contact [President Lee Price](#) for more information, or to volunteer. Response is requested by June 25, so t-shirts can be ordered in advance.

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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NIOSH Report Issued on Nash County LODD

06/05/10 123 W - + 19 - 10

[FireNews reported this week](#) on the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) report released Wednesday, about the death of volunteer firefighter Gregory Cooke of the Salem Fire Department in Nash County. He collapsed after "activating a pump and advancing a hose line" in March of last year, and died ten ~~years~~ days later at the hospital. The report cites the firefighter's existing medical conditions, and the risk presented both to the firefighter and beyond. Among the report's recommendations are that fire departments "fire departments have a comprehensive wellness and fitness program for firefighters, medically clear firefighters for SCBA use, and conduct annual respirator fit testing." [Read the NIOSH report.](#)

"died ten years later at the hospital. "

Maybe you mean "10 days later" ?

Paul - 06/05/10 - 10:45

Yes, thanks for catching.

Legeros - 06/05/10 - 13:41

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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This Morning's House Fires in Apex

06/06/10 118 W, 1 I - + 14 - 7

Two houses were destroyed this morning in Apex, the first dispatched about 2:35 a.m. at [1013 Saint Emilion Court](#). Arriving units found two structures "engulfed in flames," as [this WRAL story reports](#). The homes were located within a block of each other, on Saint Emilion Court and Bexely Hills Bend. One house was a model home, and the other was under construction. Crews controlled the fires in about 45 minutes. The fires are considered suspicious. Officials previously investigated suspicious fires at three homes in nearby neighborhoods off Olive Chapel Road. Those occurred in September, October, and February. We'll add additional incident information from this morning as learned.



Jack Tiger/WRAL photo

All crews worked well on this. We had Apex E-1, E-2, L-3, E-4, L-4, Apex Batt 1, Apex Car 1, Cary Batt 2, Cary E-5 responded after checking on reports of a third house on fire. Cary T-6 was coverage for town. Fairview, Morrisville, Swift Creek were dispatched to the third report but it was the second one that people were seeing through the woods. I am not sure what EMS units were there but i did see District 2, EMS T-1, EMS 41 and I think I saw a Cary unit. I was handling Command Operations while Car 1 was getting EMS units and coverages for town. House 1 was entire defensive with 2 blitz nozzles in immediate operation. House 2 was interior until crew was backed out due to ineffectiveness, fire was already through the roof but they tried, we then put a ladder in place and went defensive. House 1 was left with foundation standing. House 2 was left with floors 1 and 2 there and 3rd floor and roof completely gone.

Thanks to everyone for the good work on this.

Apex Batt Chief - 06/06/10 - 09:43

And yes they are considered suspicious and they were far enough apart that there is no way the second was an exposure. They were about 1000 ft apart

Apex Batt Chief - 06/06/10 - 09:45

Cary E-2 came all the way there, Instead of 3 or 4 or even 7? Wonder why?

JRS - 06/06/10 - 10:29

It should read Cary E-5. Apex E-2 responded after checking on reports of a third house fire. Mike please edit

Apex Batt Chief - 06/06/10 - 11:21

Cary E-2 changed to Apex E-2. Also added photo.

Legeros - 06/06/10 - 14:26

Apex Batt Chief, I was working the county fire console last night. Good stop by the way. I believe that it was EMS 41, 42, 52, 8, Truck1, Dist 5, Dist 2, Medic 91. I will double check tonight and send Mike a message on Facebook at about 1830. You all sounded professional and never once got spun up. I had no idea that there were even two houses on fire until you started actually telling people to go down there and fight that fire. Keep up the good work.

Marcus - 06/06/10 - 16:26

Were they occupied, abandoned or under construction?

I would absolutely hate to think that someones torching occupied structures.

Jake T. - 06/06/10 - 18:28

As noted in the original posting, one was under construction, and one was a model home. The previous ones were either abandoned or under construction, I believe.

Legeros - 06/06/10 - 18:34

Marcus thank you for the comments. Would it be possible to get a recording of the call?

Apex Batt Chief - 06/06/10 - 19:44

Chief:

As long as the PD isn't holding any records as evidence we can get you what you need. Call Walt Fuller at 996-5012 and we'll help you out.

[RWECC] - 06/08/10 - 17:47

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - *Trolley Tracks on* « This Morning's House ... » Raleigh Street Car Ma... Glenwood Avenue

Trolley Tracks on Glenwood Avenue

06/06/10 177 W, 6 I - + 15 - 15

Need a diversion for an otherwise sweltering Sunday? Explore trolley tracks recently uncovered on Glenwood Avenue at Five Points. Same were used from the 1880s to the 1930s. Specifically, with mule-drawn cars from 1886 to 1891, and electric-powered cars from 1891 to 1933.

From 1881 to 1894, the operating company was Raleigh Street Railway. From 1894 to 1933, they were run by the Raleigh Electric Company, which was renamed Carolina Power & Light Company in 1908. The trolleys linked downtown to the emerging suburb of Hayes Barton. It also provided service to nearby Bloomsbury Park, which featured the carousel moved to Pullen Park in 1921.

One surviving structure shown below is a trolley shelter on Glenwood Avenue at Harvey Street. The stone structure was built by the Raleigh Electric Company, and presently serves as a bus shelter. Haven't found a date or era for the thing. Presume turn of century or earlier.

Sources: [News & Observer article](#), June 1. [North Carolina Railroad Structures](#) database. [Wikipedia page](#) on Capital Area Transit. [Wikipedia page](#) on Pullen Park. Click to enlarge, or [view more photos](#).



Next step, finding a map of the trolley lines...

Legeros - 06/06/10 - 15:04

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - Sanborn Fire Insurance < Raleigh Street Car Ma... > This is Your Brain Maps... in Color!

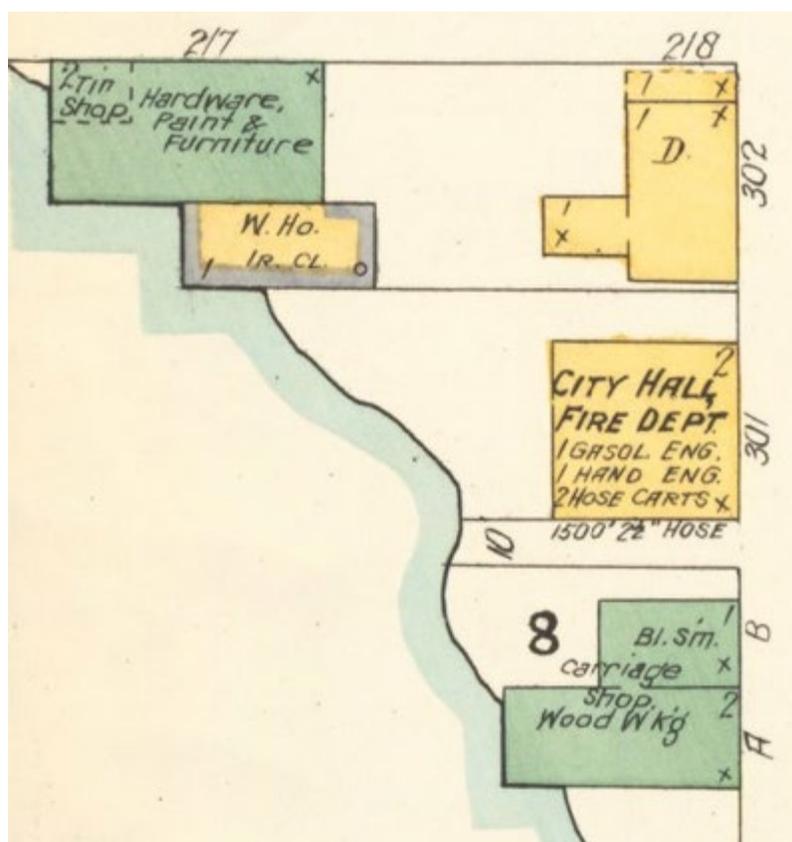
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps... in Color!

06/06/10 189 W, 1 I - + 13 - 13

That [North Carolina Maps site](#), referenced in the [Trolley Tracks posting](#), is a digital collection containing over 3,000 maps from the North Carolina State Archives, the North Carolina Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill, and the Outer Banks History Center. As it happens, they have digital version of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps produced through 1922. That's the year before their copyright starts. (Said maps were produced to the 1950s.)

We've blogged about [digital Sanborn Maps](#) before. They're available through [NC LIVE](#)-- typically requiring login through a library account-- and are available for all years produced. Not just until 1922. But they're black-and-white. Sanborn Maps surfaced by North Carolina Maps are in glorious color. Which makes them infinitely easier to read. User interface is also faster and more intuitive. Click the [Sanborn Maps tab](#) on the main site, and scroll down to see a list of all available.

For extra credit, can you identify the "mystery map" below. That's a city hall building with a fire station, in a popular North Carolina city. Man, nothing better than old maps!



Name: (real name preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes

This is Your Brain

06/07/10 74 W - + 11 - 11

Morning reading from the *New York Times*. Subject matter is gray matter. What's happening to our brains as we adapt to digital technologies.

- [Book review](#) of *The Shallows - What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains* by Nicholas Carr.
- [Feature article](#) named *Hooked on Gadgets, and Paying a Mental Price*.
- [Related article](#) named *An Ugly Toll of Technology: Impatience and Forgetfulness*.
- [Interactive test](#) on focus and multitasking.

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Trespassers Burned at Raleigh Substation

06/07/10 119 W, 1 I - + 13 - 9

[WTVD posted this video report](#) on an usual incident in southwest Raleigh early this morning. Just after midnight, units were dispatched to an electrocution at a Progress Energy substation near Centennial Ridge Way and Tryon Road.

A man and a woman in their mid-twenties were treated for burns after climbing a fence and receiving electric shocks in the order of 23,000 volts. One was seriously burned and [WRAL reports](#) they were rushed to UNC hospitals.

Power to the substation was temporarily shut down during the rescue, which caused an extended outage to that area. A third person involved is being sought. Units on scene included Engine 20 and EMS 8.



Listened to some of this on the scanner archives. E20, EMS8, EMS11. Others? Male victim found at substation. Female victim found at nearby apartments. Substation down long gravel road.

Bing maps has bird's eye view, though linking to same seems unavailable. Basically, the thing sites behind a number of apartment buildings. That is, through the woods to same.

Google Maps aerial view, <http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s..>

LJM - 06/07/10 - 09:15

Wow!!! Think a fence would have been a clue to stay out ???

Tim B ([Email](#)) - 06/07/10 - 12:20

Once again... here's your sign!

A.C. Rich - 06/07/10 - 14:00

Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

New Old Ambulances

06/07/10 75 W, 1 I - + 11 - 14

Wake County has re-lettered a quartet of ambulances acquired from Garner EMS & Rescue Squad. They're entering the reserve fleet. Eight days ago, three Wake County EMS units were placed in service in that area. EMS 16 at Garner Fire Station 2 (24-hour shift), EMS 18 at Garner Fire Station 3 (two 12-hour shifts), and EMS 19 at Garner Fire Station 1 (two 12-hour shifts). EMS 17, since you asked, is the Holly Springs unit. Click to enlarge:



So what's happening to the rest of the fleet and building?

rookie - 06/07/10 - 18:15

The building and rest of their fleet continues to be owned and operated by GEMS, by their rescue and medical transport divisions.

Legeros - 06/07/10 - 18:32

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

Yesterday's Apartment Fire / River Run

06/08/10 96 W - + 15 - 11

Two alarms at [6913 River Run](#). Engine 18 arriving at a three-story apartment building, brick and frame construction, with 8,704 square-feet. Built 1985. Pine straw burning beside structure, with extension into structure. Extended interior operations, locating fire burning in walls. Some extension into attic space. Second alarm requested for manpower approximately 30 minutes into incident. Dispatched about 6:40 p.m. Crews remained on scene late into evening. First alarm: E16, E17, E18, L3, R3, B4. Working fire: E23, C10, C20, A1. Second alarm: E4, E9, E_, L1, R1, B1. EMS resources included Truck 1. Corrections/additions welcome.

I believe Engine 15 was the 3rd connection on the 2nd alarm

my recollection - 06/08/10 - 13:06

3rd engine, brain fart on my part

my recollection - 06/08/10 - 13:06

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - *Raleigh-Wake* < [Yesterday's Apartment...](#) > [Emergency Fire Dispat...](#)
Emergency Communications Center Receives International Award

Raleigh-Wake Emergency Communications Center Receives International Award

06/08/10 67 W, 1 I - + 11 - 13

The Association of Public Safety Communications Officials International (APCO) [2010 Horizon Award](#) for Large 911 Centers has been awarded to the [Raleigh-Wake Emergency Communications Center](#). The award, inaugurated in 2009, is presented annually to acknowledge the efforts of communications centers that have proactively assessed and met the technological and operational needs of their center, employees, and service population. [Read entire press release.](#)



Well deserved indeed! Congrats to RWECC!!

A..C. Rich - 06/08/10 - 12:20

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Emergency Fire Dispatch (EFD)

06/08/10 92 W - + 12 - 9

Speaking of our friends at the Raleigh-Wake Emergency Communications Center, they today hosted a meeting of county and city fire chiefs concern Emergency Fire Dispatch (EFD). That's a set of protocols similar to the EMD program that's been used in Wake County for 13 years now. These are fire protocols, however. The ECC is examining the possibility of implementing same as a means of providing a more standardized product, and increasing their quality assurance efforts. [See this demonstration](#) for further information. Thanks to Director Barry Furey for passing along.

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: [/ Textile](#)

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Sign in Front of Rescue House

06/08/10 182 W, 1 I - + 15 - 10

Here's the answer to a reader question, about a banner over an old Raleigh fire station. [This is the photo](#), from the fire horses collection. The thing reads "July 1906 - World's Champion - 28 Seconds - Rescue." The building is the Rescue Company engine house, which was located in the 300 block of Fayetteville Street. It was built in 1870, demolished in 1914, and served as Raleigh's original Station 2. [Read more](#). Or see [some old maps](#).

The sign refers to the fire company winning first place in the horse hose wagon contest, at the 1906 state fireman's tournament in Asheville. They broke what was called a "world's record," though the winning time was probably just the best recorded in the state. (I have never come across validation of the claim as country-wide.)

The Rescue Company competed against horse hose wagons from Asheville, Durham, Goldsboro, Kinston, Raleigh's Capital Hose Company, and Statesville. [Read about the tournament](#), or even [view newspaper clippings](#). As for the sign, did it survive? Alas, unknown. Maybe someday it'll surface. Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Changes in Garner

06/08/10 151 W - + 13 - 5

Time to praise the press. *The Garner Citizen* has been doing a great job these days, covering recent changes to emergency services in Garner. Today there's a [good feature on the EMS merger](#), which brought both personnel and equipment from Garner EMS and Rescue Squad into Wake County EMS effective May 31.

The *Citizen* is also reporting this week on Town Council requests to [merge the rescue function of the squad](#) with the Garner Fire Department. The council seeks employment for the current rescue employees, as well as the transfer of town-funded assets. The request comes in the wake of administrative changes announced at Garner Fire Department, and the [retirement of long-time Fire Chief Phil Mitchell](#).

Check out the *Citizen* web site for those stories. Timely and balanced reporting, there. More perspectives and retrospectives later, as we watch and wish the best for the evolution of Garner emergency services.

Thanks for reading and sharing, Mike.

Rachel / The Garner Citizen ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 06/09/10 - 17:46

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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Bystanders

06/08/10 41 W, 1 I - + 10 - 11

Residents at an apartment complex on [Smith Creek Parkway](#) Sunday night. Extinguished with sprinkler system. Exceptionally dark on arrival of EMS. Then the trucks arrived and things became a bit more bright. That's 1600 on the camera. Click to enlarge:



That little girl seems just happy as can be to see you!

[rfburns] - 06/09/10 - 08:24

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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

Moving Van

06/08/10 55 W, 1 I - + 11 - 12

Question from Mrs. Blogger. Why do you spend all day at the office, come home, and get on the computer? Answer from Mr. Blogger. Because I'm nuts. Here's another night shot. Smoke investigation-reported-as-house fire on [Biddeston Court](#). That's the second-due engine in the distance. First-due squeezed by okay. 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.
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Arson Task Force Forms in Apex

06/11/10 105 W - + 11 - 13

The *News & Observer* had a story yesterday about the arson task force that's formed in Apex. Local, state, and federal authorities are working together to catch the person or persons responsible for fires that have destroyed five houses since last year. They're the second Triangle town that's facing a suspected serial arsonist. A multi-agency task force is working in Clayton, to solve a string of fires from October. Apex and Clayton police are also comparing notes, to see if the same people are responsible for the fires. [Read the entire story](#). Other coverage of this story includes [NBC 17](#).

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Remember personal info?
 Yes
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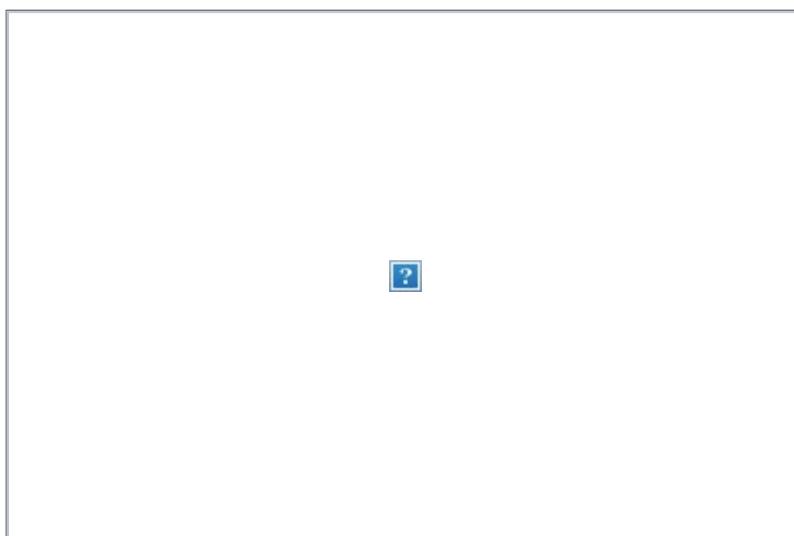
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

Cooling Off / Fire Operations 101

06/11/10 258 W, 1 I - + 9 - 17

Yesterday's *News & Observer* also published this photo from Saturday's Operations 101 event at the Keeter Training Center. The headline was "Your Best Shot: Cooling Off." The caption read: "Mike Legeros took this photo of Raleigh City Councilor Nancy McFarlane flanked by Capt. Dennis Tart, left, and firefighter Donald Williams of the Raleigh Fire Department. The fire department invited City Council members to spend Saturday learning how firefighters do their jobs. McFarlane had just finished a search-and-rescue drill, in which she entered a hot, smoky building and helped bring out a 160-pound mannequin." The photo appeared in the paper's Triangle & Company section, as one of their recurring Your Best Shot photos. [Click to enlarge.](#)



Fire Department Operations 101 was hosted by the Raleigh Fire Department, and sponsored by the [Raleigh Professional Firefighters Association](#). It was intended as "freshman orientation" to daily operations, risk, and rewards faced by Raleigh firefighters. City Council members were escorted by shepherds during all stages of the half-day event, which started with a fitting of full firefighter personal protective equipment.

Classroom instruction included emergency medical technician and firefighter skill sets. Council members also attended demonstrations of hazmat and USAR operations. After lunch, they dressed and responded as Engine 14 and Ladder 4 to simulated structure fire in the lower-level of the training tower. Their objectives were to advance a charged hose line, extinguish a fire, search and locate a victim, and resuscitate same.

[Read the original press release](#) or [see more photos](#).

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Interschutz

06/12/10 265 W, 1 I - + 12 - 10

The international fire/rescue/safety/security expo [Interschutz](#) is underway this week in Leipzig, Germany. It's purportedly the largest such show in the world, and is organized only once every five years. And that's up from once every ten years, if memory serves.

[Firegeezzer](#) has surfaced some photos and links from FWNetz.com, including an [image gallery numbering 300 images](#). Mostly apparatus photos, and of which are mostly European rigs. Some of the trucks that caught Mr. Blogger's eye include:

- [Mobile ventilation unit](#), or what looks like same
- [Rail-capable response unit](#)
- [Forestry unit from Japan](#), concept car from Morita. See their [home page](#) for some demonstration animation
- [Aerial ladder from Japan](#), and a new chassis from Morita
- [Tractor-drawn tank and pump](#). Industrial use, perhaps?
- [Six-wheel amphibious unit from Italy](#). By Iveco-Magirus. Google doesn't find much more about it.
- [Tracked robot from Croatia](#). See the company's [home page](#) for more.

Also observed a multi-axle aerial platform by [Bronto](#) in Finland, which is touted as a new world's record of 112 meters. That's 367 feet, Charlie. Talk about a pucker-factor! And there's lots of other stuff. Heavy pumps. Light pumps. Aerials of all sizes. Airport apparatus. A military tank conversion.

Great photos by the gang at [FWnetz](#). Thanks for posting, and giving the world a chance to virtually share in the experience!

We hope to attend in 2015, after unsuccessfully planning a trip there this year. That is, Mr. Blogger looks forward to attending. The Missus was more excited at the prospect of our first European trip, than that particular destination.



The first truck is not only a mobile ventilation unit. It's a pumper/engine of the Basle FD (Switzerland) and designed for fires in underground traffic facilities, like subway, tunnel, underground parking lots, etc. The ventilator is just one part of the truck. It has also 1190 gallons of water, 529 gallons of foam, 200 pounds of powder and 80 pounds of CO2 on board.

The tractor-drawn tank and pump is from Poland.

I also planned to visit the Interschutz this year, but don't have the time. Maybe in 2015, too.

Dennis ([Email](#)) - 06/12/10 - 11:35

some awesome equipment on display there-would love to be at next one! we could learn a few things from our European brothers with regard to equipment. Some of it is really well thought out.

goose - 06/12/10 - 17:46

Anyone have any ideas when Raleigh's replacement tiller will be in?

tiller - 06/16/10 - 07:52

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

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Raleigh Fire Department Receives Grant For Live Fire Simulator

06/13/10 145 W - + 15 - 9

On Monday, June 14, the [Raleigh Fire Department](#) will receive a check representing nearly \$146,000 in federal funds for the purchase of a new 40-foot, mobile, live-fire, multi-training simulator. The presentation ceremony will be held at Fire Station #1, located at [220 S. Dawson Street](#) at 11:30 a.m. The check will be presented by [U.S. Rep. Brad Miller](#).

The funds are being awarded by the United States Department of Homeland Security as part of its Assistance to Firefighters Grant program and require a 20 percent local match. The AFG program is designed to help emergency responders obtain equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other valuable resources.

The training simulator will provide firefighters with live fire training as well as ventilation, forcible entry, standpipe, sprinkler, confined space, firefighter survival, and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) skill stations.

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Out of Service

06/13/10 101 W, 1 I - + 11 - 13

Reporting from the road this weekend. Spent a few days in New York City. Lots of walking, lots of eating, and way too many photographs. Attractions ranged from Times Square to Fort Totten, from a ride through Harlem, to a stroll on the Brooklyn Heights promenade. Endless subway rides, except for the day that we rented a car. Joy that was, not. Toured the New York City Fire Museum, for a repeat visit. First time with digital camera, however. Saw quite a few FDNY vehicles about. Passed a couple houses, but didn't go inside. More later.



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Fire Education Vehicles

06/13/10 45 W, 2 I - + 17 - 11

Here are a pair of appealingly designed vehicles used by the [Office of Fire Safety Education](#) of the New York City Fire Department. They were photographed at the department's [facilities at Fort Totten](#). More on the latter later. Click to enlarge:



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Getting Out of the Way

06/13/10 78 W - + 11 - 15

From a reader, here's a unique peek at driving conditions across the pond. It's a compilation of driver's eye views from what appears to be [Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service](#). Beware, there's a roundabout included, though that clip stops as they enter same. Good thing, too. It'd probably induce vertigo in western viewers. And if the left-side driving is too terrifying, simply view the video with a mirror! Thanks for sending, Paul.

I don't get it... People are moving out of the way. People are stopping on the side of the road, in BOTH directions! When someone that's stopped realizes they're stopped in a bad position, they have the sense to start moving and get out of the way. HOW is this possible, and how do we make it happen here?

And yes, watching them hang to the left is kind of terrifying, especially in the beginning when there are some arrows in the road that are pointing back at the rescue truck, making it look like he's driving in the wrong direction. What's that all about?

[rfburns] - 06/13/10 - 22:43

So I finally found what I was looking for ...

Rule 219 of the Highway Code (UK equivalent of US DMV handbook) states "You should look and listen for ambulances, fire engines, police, doctors or other emergency vehicles using flashing blue, red or green lights and sirens or flashing headlights, or Highways Agency Traffic Officer and Incident Support vehicles using flashing amber lights. When one approaches do not panic. Consider the route of such a vehicle and take appropriate action to let it pass, while complying with all traffic signs. If necessary, pull to the side of the road and stop, but try to avoid stopping before the brow of a hill, a bend or narrow section of road. Do not endanger yourself, other road users or pedestrians and avoid

mounting the kerb. Do not brake harshly on approach to a junction or roundabout, as a following vehicle may not have the same view as you.”

It's been a couple decades since I did my driving lessons, but there are 2 sets of white arrows in the video.

The first, seen at 0:04, are in line with the centre stripe and direction of travel and tell you that there's a bend in the road.

The second, seen at 0:24, are in the middle of the lane facing the other direction and (IIRC) are there to tell you that if you're coming the other way and are currently overtaking then you're approaching a no-passing zone.

Paul - 06/14/10 - 08:36

why did the driver turn the siren off while trying to over take that transfer truck is that common practice in the UK

american - 06/14/10 - 10:37

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E-mail: (optional)

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Lightner Tower Gets Another Chance

06/14/10 147 W - + 11 - 10

That's the headline from today's [News & Observer article](#), reporting on city council members meeting this week to discuss alternative proposals for the Clarence E. Lightner Public Safety Center. They'll consider choices both cheaper and more expensive, as proposed by the Center's architects and summarized in the article:

- Move emergency dispatchers and traffic management staff to basement. Cost increases \$39 million.
- Move emergency dispatchers to new building, four or six stories tall. Build 11-story building for fire, police, and IT departments. Cost increases \$19 to \$73 million.
- Move emergency dispatchers to four-story building farther away from other city buildings. Built 11-story building for fire and police departments. Cost increases \$54 million.
- Remove space for IT department and large conference room from original plan. Cost decreases \$13 million.
- Remove space for fire and IT departments and large conference room from original plan. Cost decreases \$19 million.

[Read the article.](#)

Meeting resulted in discussion, but no action. <http://www.newsobserver.com/2010/06/16/5..>

Legeros - 06/16/10 - 06:47

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Falls Fire Department Anniversary Planning

06/14/10 76 W - + 13 - 10

The Falls Fire Department is trying to reach anyone who has ever served the department, and in any capacity. They're celebrating their 40th anniversary this year, and planning for a birthday party for former members and their families on July 10. Help is requested with spreading the word. Contacts the planners via party@fallsfd.com. Or contact Nick Rhodes directly at 919-669-0643, or nrhodes@fallsfd.com. RSVP is requested by July 1.

Name: (real name preferred)
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Collapse Incidents

06/15/10 89 W - + 12 - 10

A seeming spate of collapse incidents has struck the state of late. Holden Beach [had a deck collapse](#) on Thursday, June 10, injuring seven people at 479 Ocean Boulevard. Four were transported. Hickory had a [ceiling collapse at a church](#) on Sunday, June 14. Twelve people were transported from the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. No serious injuries. Oxford had a [roof collapse tonight](#), at 200 CertainTeed Drive. No one was injured in the incident that occurred at a shingle plant. Use your favorite search engine to find additional news on each.

Name: (real name preferred)
E-mail: (optional)
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Last Night's Major Fire / New Hope Church Road

06/15/10 208 W, 1 I - + 13 - 8

Two alarms at [2605 New Hope Church Road](#). Engine 11 arriving at a two-story, wood-frame apartment building, with 7,920 square-feet. Built 1972. Heavy fire showing, and declared major working fire on arrival. Heavy fire found on second floor, and in attic. Crews withdrawn from interior attack after several minutes. Ladder 2 utilized for aerial stream, followed by resumed interior work. Exposure protection on east side of building, and deluge gun positioned behind building. Two hydrants utilized, both on or near New Hope Church Road.

Command located in parking lot, in front of building. Medical monitoring and rehab located on grassy hill, above parking lot, and in front of building. Temperature about 80-74 degrees, with about 67% 96% humidity. Crews evaluated for heat exhaustion and dehydration. One firefighter transported to hospital. No civilian injuries. Twenty-four people displaced, 12 adults and 12 children. Two of six apartment units destroyed. Six total uninhabitable. Cause determined as accidental. Dispatched 9:09 p.m. Controlled 10:13 p.m.

First alarm: E11, E19, E15, L2, R1, B1. Second alarm, including working fire dispatch: E21, E9, E27, E7, L1, R2, B2, C10, C20. Special called: E13, L5. Medical: EMS 2 (first alarm), EMS 5, EMS 4, D1, D4, M91, T1 (second alarm). [Preliminary photos posted by Legeros](#).



Next question, how many major fires for those and nearby apartments? Answer man says...

1992, Feb 13 – 3830 Brentwood Road, two alarms

2004, Jul 14 – 3817 Brentwood Road, Brentwood West, two alarms

2006, Apr 03 – 3903 Green Road, two alarms

2007, Aug 20 – 3833 Bonneville Court, three alarms

Just four? Seems like there have been more.

No idea on one-alarms. Probably too many to count.

Legeros - 06/15/10 - 08:22

These are some GREAT pics Mike!! I hear Lee was grounded with car trouble (yuk!). I have no idea on the number of fires on/around "Bonneville" but whenever one is dispatched in that area, I would say there is a greater than 50% chance it is working. Given the stats and trend(s), it is an obvious opportunity for some form of intervention and/or education of the apartment occupants in that area. Maybe a program city wide(?).

A.C. Rich - 06/15/10 - 11:13

Great pics, nice to see the "fruits of our labor" are paying off from the Ladder Ops Committee. Awesome job "A-team". Look at all those ground ladders!!!

Silver - 06/16/10 - 00:24

Oops, forgot to attach pics;

<http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/2010-0..>

<http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/2010-0..>

Silver - 06/16/10 - 00:27

Weather data corrected. Lower temperature but WAY higher humidity, which should have been a duh at the time originally posted.

Legeros - 06/16/10 - 06:33

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

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Firefighting Lore - Brass Railings

06/15/10 128 W, 1 I - + 14 - 9

Q: Why were watch stations in fire houses once equipped with brass railings?

A: To protect equipment from being damaged by horses.

Though romanticized in retrospect, fire horses could also be a pain. They required constant grooming, feeding, and exercise. They left things behind that required sanitary disposal. They could get sick, and even be struck down in epidemic. That happened in 1887, and decimated Boston's entire fleet of four-legged members. The more rowdy mares might damage equipment on the station floor, hence the above brass railing. Below is an example watch station at the New York City Fire Museum, complete with railing. Source: *A Pictorial History of the Fire Engine, Volume 1* by Matthew Lee, self-published in 1997.



Name: (real name preferred)
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Yesterday's House Fires in Cary / Bell Arthur Drive

06/16/10 111 W, 1 I - + 16 - 8

Two alarms at [102 and 104 Bell Arthur Drive](#). Arriving chief officer found working fires at two houses. Second alarm requested on arrival. Interior attacks for both. Mutual aid from Apex and Morrisville to scene, and including Durham Highway (P1 to Morrisville Sta 1), Parkwood, and Western Wake (P196 to Cary Sta 5) for coverage. Dispatched about 7:20 p.m. Controlled at 7:49 p.m. Temperature about 85 degrees, humidity about 70%. Cause suspected as lightning. Units on scene included Cary E5, E2, E_, L5, T_, R4, B_, others?; Apex E3, L3; Morrisville E1; EMS 52, 54, 41, D5, D2, M91, T1; WC1. [Watch video report from WTVD](#).



Good Job Cary Brothers! Talk about multi-tasking!

ncff - 06/16/10 - 09:11

The responding unit run down, Cary E4, E5, E7, E2, L5, L3, T7, R4, Batt 2, Batt 1, Car 3: Apex E3, Ladder 3: Morrisville E1. Lots of EMS units including District 5, District 2, Truck 1, and a couple EMS units.

Double Job - 06/16/10 - 09:25

I second that ncff

nbfrvollie - 06/16/10 - 09:37

Station Coverage: Durham Highway Pumper 1 to Morrisville for Coverage, Parkwood Ladder/Batt 610 to Cary Station Four, and Western Wake Pumper 196 to Cary Station One.

VFD45 - 06/16/10 - 14:19

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Firefighting Lore - Fire Marks

06/16/10 169 W - + 12 - 14

Q: Did firefighters in the United States really refuse to fight fires at homes or business that lacked the proper fire mark?

A: Negative. That is a myth.

As [researched by Robert M. Shea](#) in an article that we [blogged about before](#), modern literature on (and thus contemporary understanding of) **American** fire marks includes misconceptions including (a.) arriving volunteer fire companies would not fight fires unless a fire mark was present, (b.) the companies received a reward from the insurance company whose fire mark was present, and (c.) the creation of paid municipal fire departments diminished the use of fire marks.

What then were fire marks used for? The answers vary, says the author. From simply identifying the insuring company, to deterring arsonists, and perhaps even motivating firefighters. Nonetheless, American insurance companies issued fire marks for over 150 years. They're found in fire museums across the land. The above article is posted on the web site of the [Fire Mark Circle of the Americas](#).

There are, however, subscription fire departments that will not fight a fire at your house if you have not subscribed, except perhaps if life is at stake. When I was in Illinois there were areas where no organized fire protection existed. These were typically served (at a reasonable cost I might add) by either subscription departments or by subscriptions to neighboring departments who would respond out of area if you had a contract. As cold as it may seem these departments depended on the revenue, and offering to accept payment at the time of the fire was akin to buying insurance after an accident and asking the company to pre-date the policy. If they didn't take that stance they would have zero chance of getting any takers.

[RWECC] - 06/18/10 - 19:28

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Web Site: (optional)

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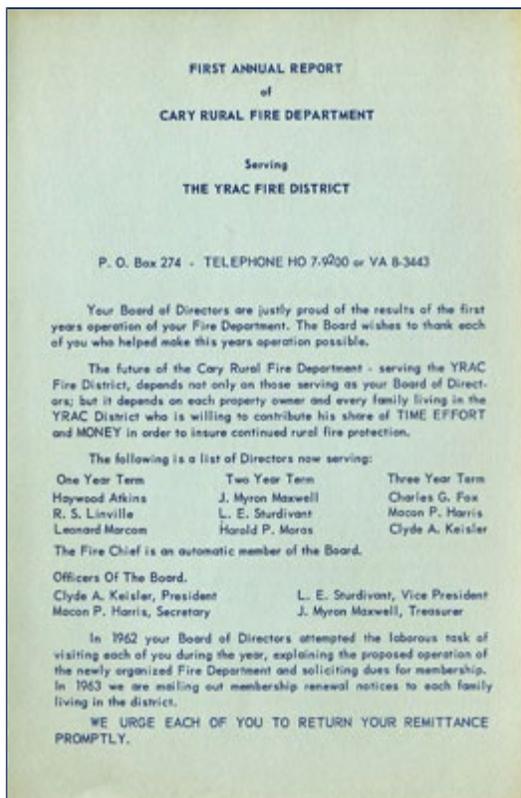
Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

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First Annual Report of Cary Rural Fire Department

06/16/10 75 W, 2 I - + 9 - 14

Random artifact, recent discovered in records recovered from Western Wake Fire Station 2. That is, the former Station 2, said facility having been closed a couple years now. The station was formerly operated by the Yrac Fire Department, which was originally called Cary Rural Fire Department. [Here's their first annual report](#) , from 1962. Or click below to read the PDF document. Or [read more about the history of YFD.](#)



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Zebulon Fire Station, 1974

06/16/10 86 W, 1 I - + 13 - 9

And our friends at the Zebulon Fire Department pass along this nifty newspaper clipping from 1974, orabouts. Shows the town's new fire station at 113 E. Vance Street. Same was utilized by both the municipal and rural fire departments, as well as a bay for Zebulon Rescue Squad. Any guesses on makes and models of the trucks? 1972 Ford/Howe and 1972 Chevy/Bean, perhaps? We'll see if we can get a larger version of the picture. Good stuff.



Can't really see the Ford C. The Ford F is definitely a John Bean (as is obvious by the trademark booster reel cover). The ambulance is a 1973-4 Chevy C30 with a Murphy box. Murphy built their boxes in Wilson and had specialized in refrigerated truck bodies. Raleigh Fire had two of them, Cary had one, and Garner had one. A common feature to all I have seen (Wake County and beyond) was the two side-of-the-box red flashers mounted lower rather than higher.

DJ - 06/17/10 - 10:57

The Ford C looks very similar to the 74 Howe my department ran until last year, we also had a 66 similar to both. I still see a few of the old Howes being used, most are out of service but in their hay day I believe Howe and Bean were popular trucks. I have seen a plenty in eastern NC.

car3550 - 06/17/10 - 12:25

Last we heard, the cab-over is still in service in another part of the state. We'll see if we can it track down. The other Ford is now a dump truck (owned by one of our Lt's.).

Chris - 06/17/10 - 22:05

Name: (real name
preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes

1950 Mazda CTL/1200

06/16/10 62 W, 2 I - + 16 - 13

New model for the man cave, 1:43 scale replica of a 1950 Mazda CTL/1200 fire engine. Used in Japan, and probably other places. Carried suction hose, soft hose, and a couple play pipes. Equipped with pump and maybe water tank. Hand-crank siren operated by the guy on the tailboard. Small bell. Even a spot light. Made by Ebbro. Click to enlarge:



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Fire Museums on Flickr

06/17/10 122 W, 7 I - + 13 - 13

The photos from the [New York City Fire Museum](#) have been uploaded to my flickr site and the [fire museum collection therein](#). The full contents of that collection are:

- [Baltimore Fire Museum](#)
- [Catawba County NC Firefighters Museum](#)
- [Chapel Hill Museum](#)
- [Charlotte Fire Museum](#)
- [Chicago Training Academy](#)
- [Fayetteville NC History Room](#)
- [Friendship Fire Museum](#) (Alexandria, VA)
- [Harrisburg PA Fire Museum](#)
- [Hinckley MN Fire Museum](#)
- [Maryland Fire Museum](#)
- [Maryland Fire Museum 2](#)
- [Michigan Firehouse Museum](#)
- [Minneapolis Fire Dept - Big Red](#)
- [Minneapolis Fire Museum](#)
- [Museum of the Albemarle](#) (Elizabeth City, NC)
- [New Bern NC Firemen's Museum](#)
- [New York City Fire Museum](#)
- [North Charleston Fire Museum](#)
- [Philadelphia Fire Museum](#)
- [Rocky Mount Fire Museum](#)
- [St. Louis Fire Museum](#)
- [Washington NC Fire Station](#)



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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Pierce Pumpers Delivered to Charleston

06/18/10 90 W, 1 I - + 11 - 13

The Charleston Fire Department recently received a pair of sharp-looking pumpers, including this one that appears on the [Pierce new deliveries site](#). The 2010 Pierce Arrow XT pumpers are equipped with 1500 GPM Hale pumps and 750 gallon tanks, along with features including 400 HP Cummins engines, 5000 KW Honda generators, through-body ladder storage, three 1.75-inch crosslays, and LED warning packages. They were sold by Sparatan Fire & Emergency Apparatus, which has [additional photos and schematics](#). The trucks are numbered Engine 108 and Engine 115.



Here's a project idea for you Michael....I'd love to know how far the CFD has come in the past 3 years since our Brothers passed. Has the new Chief cleaned house? How many of the recommendations have been implemented?

Silver - 06/18/10 - 11:06

Ahhh !!! Silver great questions that hopefully can be answered.....

JKay - 06/18/10 - 11:48

Perhaps equally compelling is the question: how has it affected and impacted you as a firefighter, and/or your own department?

Legeros - 06/18/10 - 11:56

I just pulled a blow-up of the truck up... look on the side of the ROM doors — you can see the phrase "Everyone Goes Home" on the side of the truck...

I'm wondering if that was always there, or if it's a new addition to the trucks.

CJS ([Email](#)) - 06/18/10 - 12:25

A big departure from tradition in Charleston.....No Booster Line. Was this left off since pulling the booster line on working fires was a the norm? If so, I understand that point but its still nice to have for rubbish/brush, overhaul, and hosing stuff off.

Rides An Engine - 06/18/10 - 13:06

CJS, when I was there for the memorial they had "ISO Class 1" on EVERYTHING. "Everyone Goes Home" is a much better replacement. I didn't see it on any of their rigs before.

Another change I see is the three digit numbering system.

Silver - 06/18/10 - 21:32

Silver, I agree... "Everyone Goes Home" is a much better replacement that ISO Class 1, even though that is a high achievement.

Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - In Memory of the « Pierce Pumpers Delive... » Live Burns at Grain E... Charleston 9

In Memory of the Charleston 9

06/18/10 57 W, 1 I - + 17 - 10

Today is the third anniversary of the [Charleston Super Sofa Fire](#), where nine members of the Charleston Fire Department died on June 18, 2007. The state's premiere fire news site, [sconfire.com](#), has posted a third anniversary tribute including video on their home page. Click to visit:



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'?

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

Live Burns at Grain Elevators

06/18/10 104 W, 1 I - + 15 - 13

For your Friday enjoyment and as found on this [Firehouse forums posting](#), here are a pair of fascinating video slideshows of grain elevator live burns in rural Iowa. The [first video](#) from October 2009 involves logistics including 143 firefighters, nearly two dozen tankers, adjacent support buildings to be protected, and a railroad alongside. The elevator is burned one building at a time. The [second video](#) is dated September 2009. Both operations were conducted by a private consulting company called the Iowa Large Structure Burn Team. Read the [original posting](#) for additional comments and videos.



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'?

Durham Opens Fire Station 15

06/21/10 228 W, 1 I - + 16 - 10

As [this morning's News & Observer reports](#), the Durham Fire Department opens Fire Station 15 on Monday. The three-bay facility at [2070 Torredge Road](#) will serve Treyburn, a primarily residential section to the far north. The area is currently served under contract by the Bahama Fire Department. Officials have been planning the fire station for over 15 years. It was even superseded by Station 16, which opened southwest of the city in 2006 on Farrington Road.

The three-bay facility will house a three-person engine company, as well as the department's swift water rescue team. The latter is relocating from Station 14 on Umstead Road, to be closer to the Little River Reservoir and Lake Michie. It cost \$2.6 million, and includes such green features as a solar water heater and a truck-washing area equipped for water reclamation. A dedication ceremony and open housed is planned for August 14.

More information about the facility and its prototype design is available in [this press release](#) that Google finds. The station was designed by G. H. Williams Collaborative. The building is 7,911 square-foot, single-story, with separate accommodation for eight firefighters per shift, weight room, captain's offices, dining room, and kitchen. The [unofficial DFD home page](#) has a couple preview pictures of the station-territory.

Update: Today's [Durham Herald-Sun also has a story](#) about the new station, as well as this picture:



Durham Herald-Sun photo

The photo shown is a picture of Durham Tech's north campus, not fire station 15.

correction needed - 06/19/10 - 08:35

Ha. No wonder the thing looked atypical. Removed.

Legeros - 06/19/10 - 08:43

Here's the proposed FY11 budget for the fire department, which was approved yesterday: [http://www.durhamnc.gov/departments/bms/..](http://www.durhamnc.gov/departments/bms/)

Station 15 was staffed with existing staff, it notes. And to control costs, thus the three-person staffing of Engine 15.

Legeros - 06/22/10 - 07:23

Camp Lejeune Opens New Fire Station 10

06/19/10 94 W, 1 I - + 9 - 18

Another new fire station opens Monday at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville. The base fire department opens a new Fire Station 10 that day, and also places Truck 10 in service, which will operate a 2009 Pierce Velocity 75-foot quint. Lee Wilson is [traveling down east this week](#), and has posted photos of the new station along with other base apparatus. Google doesn't find much additional information about the department. Perhaps readers can add additional details. See also this [Carolinas Fire Page list of Onslow county fire stations](#).



Lee Wilson photo

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](#))

This Morning's Second Alarm / Dillmark Court

06/19/10 93 W, 1 I - + 8 - 15

Two alarms at [2805 Dillmark Court](#). Engine 10 arriving at a two-story, wood-frame townhouse with 1,080 square-feet. Built 1986. Found fire in downstairs living area venting out of rear of structure, and up to second floor. Dispatched 5:40 a.m. Controlled 6:06 a.m. No injuries. Three people displaced. Cause determined as accidental. Units on scene included E10, E26, E2, E12, E7, E3, E1, L8, L4, R2, R3, B2, B3, C10, C20, A1, C2, EMS 7, EMS 18, EMS 19, M94, D1, T1. [Late incident photos posted by Legeros](#).



Darn engine companies, PULL PAST!!! PULL PAST!!

Silver - 06/19/10 - 15:16

are some of the older engines being retrofitted with LED light bars?

harkey ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 06/19/10 - 19:29

Some are, yes....we wish our rig would too. It would really help with the electrical load the strobes, mini MX-7000's and Q put on the system.

Silver - 06/19/10 - 21:41

Silver, Silver, Silver- Gotta get that cross lay lined up with the front door, might run out of hose. Silly Truckie, ground ladders are portable; you can take them anywhere! In all seriousness, you can add hose, but you can't add to a ladder. I am a HUGE fan of all hoselines being stretched off the rear, instead of cross lays.

In a related note to pulling past, did you hear the bystanders at the Seattle multi-fatal fire talking junk about the engine company pulling past to leave room for the ladder?

Rides An Engine - 06/19/10 - 21:43

What are the down sides for the engine(s), when pulling past? Or is win-win on all sides, so to speak?

Legeros - 06/19/10 - 21:50

I would say win win. You get a 3 side view (if its a single occupancy of course) and as most Raleigh Engines have a 250 ft. crosslay, I dont see pulling the extra 30 ft. as a hinderance. My opinion though, Im sure others would say different. Looks like E-10 made a good stop without a doubt. Fun in the sun.

Jake T. - 06/19/10 - 22:15

Obvious that the Brothers made a great stop, nobody is debating that. But, you knew there was a "but", we can learn from EVERY fire. It benefits the truck crew for the engine to pull past the fire so we can position in the front. This helps when the outside crew is throwing ladders and putting the main to the roof. If the job goes to "big water", the aerial stream can be put to work effectively. Plus, the ladder company is a large toolbox, so it saves a few steps.

Just sayin'....

Silver - 06/19/10 - 22:24

LOL!

Troll.

Jake T. - 06/20/10 - 03:35

Huh?

Silver - 06/20/10 - 11:43

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Mystery Apparatus

06/20/10 29 W, 1 I - + 11 - 11

Been a while for one of these. Recognize these markings? Key words include "fire" and "department."



WW P-293

H2O - 06/21/10 - 20:37

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Facelift for Cupola at Durham Station 2

06/21/10 86 W, 1 I - + 12 - 9

The Durham *Herald-Sun* also recently reported on restoration of the cupola at Fire Station 2 at [1001 Ninth Street](#). Scaffolding was recently installed, as the restoration begins this month. The \$150,000 project is scheduled for completion in October. The fire station was completed in 1950, and is the oldest engine house in the Bull City. It presently houses Engine 2, Ladder 2, Squad 2, and Battalion 2. [Read the entire article](#). Or learn more about the station at the [unofficial DFD site](#).



Brittany Bass / Durham Herald-Sun photo

Here's a list of the city's capital projects, FY10 version, with project descriptions for a host of fire station projects including the cupola work, [http://www.durhamnc.gov/departments/bms/.](http://www.durhamnc.gov/departments/bms/)

Includes a bunch of new stations.

Station 7, rebuild? – Complete by FY14

Station 9, relocate – Complete by FY12

Station 10, rebuild – Complete by FY14

Station 17 – Complete by FY15

Station 18 – Complete by FY16

Station 19 – Complete by FY17

Legeros - 06/22/10 - 07:28

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

OSFM Article on Pine Knoll Townes

06/22/10 119 W, 2 I - + 20 - 15

This article appeared the Spring 2010 issue of *Fire and Rescue Journal*, as published by the [Office of State Fire Marshal](#) (OSFM). The author is myself, Historian Mike Legeros. It recounts the historic, multi-structure fire at a new townhome community on February 22, 2007. The narrative includes conditions leading up to the incident, and lessons learned thereafter. Photos include images from Legeros and Lee Wilson, who skillfully captured the scope of the rapidly spreading fire. That's his iconic shot on the first page. This PDF version has been stitched together from scan of the printed version. Watch the [OSFM publications web site](#) for the originating digital version. [Read the article](#)  (2.2M), or click to view:

The Fire & Rescue Journal

Looking Back:
Pine Knoll Townes; Raleigh, N.C.

North Carolina's Capital City was created in 1792. A planned city of one square mile, early Raleigh was shaped by fires that burned entire blocks in the first decades. The last great fire in 1851 destroyed over 17 buildings. Resulting public safety improvements created the first incarnation of the Raleigh Fire Department.

Over 150 years later, the city was challenged by fire again. Weather conditions, building construction, and another major fire four miles away contributed to a "perfect storm" on Feb. 22, 2007.

THE BUILDINGS
Pine Knoll Townes was a developing subdivision located six miles north of downtown Raleigh. Fourteen two-story, wood-frame townhomes had been built so far. They averaged 5,715 square-feet with four units each. Most were completed and occupied. The main street, Onozona



© Photos by Lee Wilson and Mike Legeros.

fires at two other buildings, which callers reported at 3:05 p.m. The incident was upgraded. Two more engines, a ladder, a rescue, and a Battalion Chief were en-route.

THE FIRST UNIT ARRIVES
A second Battalion Chief

SECOND ALARM
Battalion 4 requested a second alarm. Five more companies and another chief were added to the call. Half of the city's 28 engines and most of eight ladders were now involved. Fire-arriving Engine 27

shopping center facing Capital Boulevard. As second-alarm companies arrived, they were assigned attack and exposure control on the east side of Onozona. The volume of fire seemed to grow exponentially, and Battalion 4 requested third

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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Raleigh to 400,000 and 45

06/22/10 47 W - + 12 - 20

The population of the Capital City has cleared the 400,000 plateau, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Estimates for Resident Population for Incorporated Places. The Census estimate of 405,791 places Raleigh 45th among America's largest cities. [Read entire press release.](#)

Holy cow. We're only 140k behind Hotlanta? We're big time, ya'll!

[rfburns] - 06/22/10 - 21:58

Wow... I remember when we were 116th in 1998. We qualified for the initial national round of "terrorism" grants (Nunn-Lugar Act) as one of the "120 largest cities" and felt pretty honored then. 45th is very impressive!

A.C. Rich - 06/22/10 - 22:57

Next obvious question, wonder how our fire department ranks nationally in size?

Raleigh, NC – 400,000 – 28 engines, 8 ladders

Here's some data play, from the Firehouse magazine 2008 run survey, <http://www.firehouse.com/stateprovince/o..>

In 2008, in the survey, 45 departments served populations of 400,000 or greater:

Department – Population – Engines – Ladders

1. New York, NY – 8,300,000 – 198 – 143
2. Los Angeles County, CA – 4,146,631 – 159 – 32
3. Los Angeles City, CA – 4,045,873 – 101 – 49
4. Chicago, IL – 2,800,000 – 95 – 61
5. Houston, TX – 2,245,108 – 86 – 37
6. Clark County, NV – 2,000,000 – 27 – 6
7. Miami – Dade County, FL – 1,713,875 – 56 – 4
8. Phoenix, AZ – 1,514,369 – 64 – 14
9. Philadelphia, PA – 1,400,000 – 61 – 29
10. San Antonio, TX – 1,342,319 – 49 – 19
11. San Diego, CA – 1,300,000 – 47 – 12
12. Fairfax County, VA – 1,065,178 – 37 – 14
13. San Jose, CA – 1,007,000 – 34 – 9
14. Montgomery County, MD – 957,884 – 34 – 15
15. Honolulu, HI – 905,601 – 42 – 13
16. Prince George's County, MD – 828,770 – 46 – 26
17. San Francisco, CA – 824,525 – 42 – 19
18. Baltimore County, MD – 788,994 – 55 – 13
19. Columbus, OH – 768,804 – 34 – 15
20. Palm Beach County, FL – 760,578 – 40 – 4
21. Gwinett County, GA – 750,000 – 28 – 8
22. Austin, TX – 746,105 – 41 – 13
23. Orange County, FL – 730,000 – 41 – 4
24. DeKalb County, GA – 727,000 – 26 – 7
25. Fort Worth, TX – 705,000 – 49 – 4
26. Memphis, TN – 674,028 – 56 – 27

27. Charlotte, NC – 658,848 – 40 – 14
28. Baltimore City, MD – 635,000 – 36 – 19
29. El Paso, TX – 634,448 – 32 – 13
30. Las Vegas, NV – 603,093 – 19 – 6
31. Milwaukee, WI – 602,782 – 36 – 16
32. Seattle, WA – 592,800 – 32 – 11
33. Boston, MA – 589,141 – 34 – 23
34. Washington, DC – 588,000 – 33 – 16
35. Oklahoma City, OK – 558,000 – 36 – 13
36. Anne Arundel County, MD – 509,300 – 30 – 11
37. Albuquerque, NM – 507,789 – 23 – 6
38. Kansas City, MO – 500,000 – 34 – 12
39. Long Beach, CA – 490,166 – 21 – 5
40. Fresno, CA – 486,116 – 22 – 7
41. Mesa, AZ – 462,823 – 19 – 5
42. Colorado Springs, CO – 460,000 – 20 – 6
43. New Orleans, LA – 450,000 – 28 – 10
44. Virginia Beach, VA – 434,743 – 20 – 7
45. Polk County, FL – 400,000 – 27 – 6

Here's that list sorted by department:

Department – Population – Engines – Ladders

- Albuquerque, NM – 507,789 – 23 – 6
- Anne Arundel County, MD – 509,300 – 30 – 11
- Austin, TX – 746,105 – 41 – 13
- Baltimore City, MD – 635,000 – 36 – 19
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- Fort Worth, TX – 705,000 – 49 – 4
- Fresno, CA – 486,116 – 22 – 7
- Gwinett County, GA – 750,000 – 28 – 8
- Honolulu, HI – 905,601 – 42 – 13
- Houston, TX – 2,245,108 – 86 – 37
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- Montgomery County, MD – 957,884 – 34 – 15
- New Orleans, LA – 450,000 – 28 – 10
- New York, NY – 8,300,000 – 198 – 143

Oklahoma City, OK – 558,000 – 36 – 13
Orange County, FL – 730,000 – 41 – 4
Palm Beach County, FL – 760,578 – 40 – 4
Philadelphia, PA – 1,400,000 – 61 – 29
Phoenix, AZ – 1,514,369 – 64 – 14
Polk County, FL – 400,000 – 27 – 6
Prince George's County, MD – 828,770 – 46 – 26
San Antonio, TX – 1,342,319 – 49 – 19
San Diego, CA – 1,300,000 – 47 – 12
San Francisco, CA – 824,525 – 42 – 19
San Jose, CA – 1,007,000 – 34 – 9
Seattle, WA – 592,800 – 32 – 11
Virginia Beach, VA – 434,743 – 20 – 7
Washington, DC – 588,000 – 33 – 16

And in 2008, in the survey, 40 departments have 28 engine companies or greater:

Department – Population – Engines – Ladders

1. New York, NY – 8,300,000 – 198 – 143
2. Los Angeles County, CA – 4,146,631 – 159 – 32
3. Los Angeles City, CA – 4,045,873 – 101 – 49
4. Chicago, IL – 2,800,000 – 95 – 61
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8. Miami-Dade County, FL – 1,713,875 – 56 – 4
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11. San Antonio, TX – 1,342,319 – 49 – 19
12. Fort Worth, TX – 705,000 – 49 – 4
13. San Diego, CA – 1,300,000 – 47 – 12
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17. Austin, TX – 746,105 – 41 – 13
18. Orange County, FL – 730,000 – 41 – 4
19. Palm Beach County, FL – 760,578 – 40 – 4
20. Charlotte, NC – 658,848 – 40 – 14
21. Fairfax County, VA – 1,065,178 – 37 – 14
22. Baltimore City, MD – 635,000 – 36 – 19
23. Milwaukee, WI – 602,782 – 36 – 16
24. Oklahoma City, OK – 558,000 – 36 – 13
25. San Jose, CA – 1,007,000 – 34 – 9
26. Montgomery County, MD – 957,884 – 34 – 15
27. Columbus, OH – 768,804 – 34 – 15
28. Boston, MA – 589,141 – 34 – 23
29. Kansas City, MO – 500,000 – 34 – 12
30. Washington, DC – 588,000 – 33 – 16
31. El Paso, TX – 634,448 – 32 – 13
32. Seattle, WA – 592,800 – 32 – 11
33. Colleton County, SC – 40,000 – 31 – 2
34. Anne Arundel County, MD – 509,300 – 30 – 11
35. St Louis, MO – 350,759 – 30 – 4
36. Tulsa, OK – 382,457 – 29 – 13

- 37. Pittsburgh, PA – 300,000 – 29 – 9
- 38. Marion County, FL – 274,837 – 29 – 1
- 39. Gwinett County, GA – 750,000 – 28 – 8
- 40. New Orleans, LA – 450,000 – 28 – 10

Department – Population – Engines – Ladders

- Anne Arundel County, MD – 509,300 – 30 – 11
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- Baltimore City, MD – 635,000 – 36 – 19
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- Washington, DC – 588,000 – 33 – 16

Data from the Firehouse magazine 2008 run survey, <http://www.firehouse.com/stateprovince/o..>

Some departments are certainly missing. Raleigh did not participate, for example.

Legeros - 06/23/10 - 06:59

"8. Miami-Dade County, FL – 1,713,875 – 56 – 4"

Some of the listings are misleading, such as Miami, city of has 4 ladder companies and 10 engine companies and Miami-Dade has 24 ladders

and 32 engines.

stretch - 06/23/10 - 08:36

Some of the Miami Dade Fire Rescue engine's are running as quints. They run either Pierce or Rosenbauer 55'-75' sticks. MDRF runs a single midmount aerial, 1 tended platform, and couple of rear mounts. A complete listing of thier apparatus and stations can be found at

<http://www.miamidade.gov/mdfr>

Swiman - 06/23/10 - 11:49

Boston FYI: had 56 engines and 34 ladders, before the early 80's property tax proposition, called PROP 2 1/2, which limited city budget growth to 2 1/2 % per year and Boston had to close a bunch of houses. Not sure how many have been reopened. This was a huge problem for the entire Commonwealth of Taxachusetts.

Jon Boston - 06/23/10 - 20:01

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

New Raleigh Haz-Mat Vehicle

06/23/10 113 W, 1 I - + 14 - 10

The Raleigh Fire Department placed a new haz-mat vehicle in service today. Designated SR2, the 2010 Ford F-350 light-duty truck with a walk-in Knapheide body replaces a 2008 Ford F-350 pick-up truck. SR2 is maintained at Station 8 and is staffed by Engine 8's personnel. It's both a local and regional response unit, and is equipped for initial incident assessment, such as monitoring and recon entry. It can also tow a cargo trailer that's part of the NC Regional Response Haz-Mat Team 4 equipment cache. SR 2 also responds as part of the Haz-mat Group of NC USAR Task Force 8. Here's a preliminary picture. Better one later.



Keeping in mind I'm not on the fire side of things... I thought the HazMat units were in CAD as "HM1", etc. Did those identifiers change, or does this truck serve a different purpose?

rfburns - 06/23/10 - 20:09

The SR designation derives from "Special Risk," which was the long name for the original command slash mobile air unit delivered to Station 1 in 1988. The SR designation designates secondary or support units. The tractor-drawn haz-mat trucks are Haz-Mat 1 (HM1) at Station 2 and Haz-Mat 2 (HM2) at Station 15. The latter is the RRT4 unit. The secondary or support units are SR1 (1991 Simon Duplex/E-One at Station 2), SR2 (above), and SR3 (2005 Ford F-550 prime mover at Station 22).

Legeros - 06/23/10 - 20:13

Gotcha. Thanks, Mike!

[rfburns] - 06/23/10 - 20:17

This is, a long name of Special Risk and Incident Command Unit 1. That's the 1988 GMC/Union City extended panel van that currently serves as Field Comm 1.

<http://legeros.com/ralwake/raleigh/appar..>

Legeros - 06/23/10 - 20:36

Also, the "SR" units are in CAD, but not as dispatched resources. They may be added to an incident when HM is dispatched (either local or regional response). Thanks for dropping by #8 today Mike!!

A.C. Rich - 06/23/10 - 20:40

Where has the previous SR2 gone too?

Hazmat - 06/23/10 - 20:43

The HazMat Coordinator has it...

Silver - 06/23/10 - 20:45

It's now assigned to the Hazmat Coordinator.

A.C. Rich - 06/23/10 - 20:53

Oh well... I guess I did not click "POST" quick enough. Sorry for the duplicate.

A.C.Rich - 06/23/10 - 20:56

Gotta be quick A.C.!!!

Silver - 06/23/10 - 21:54

so what other apparatus replacement and up grades are planned over the course of the next several monthes?

new - 06/23/10 - 22:26

Other than the tiller coming sometime, probably not much. The purse strings are very tight...

Silver - 06/23/10 - 22:28

Thanks!!!

New - 06/23/10 - 22:30

Does not look like a professionally built unit. Hope it works out.

L55 - 01/21/15 - 21:24

^^^Gotta check those post dates!!

Double Check - 01/22/15 - 10:34

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.

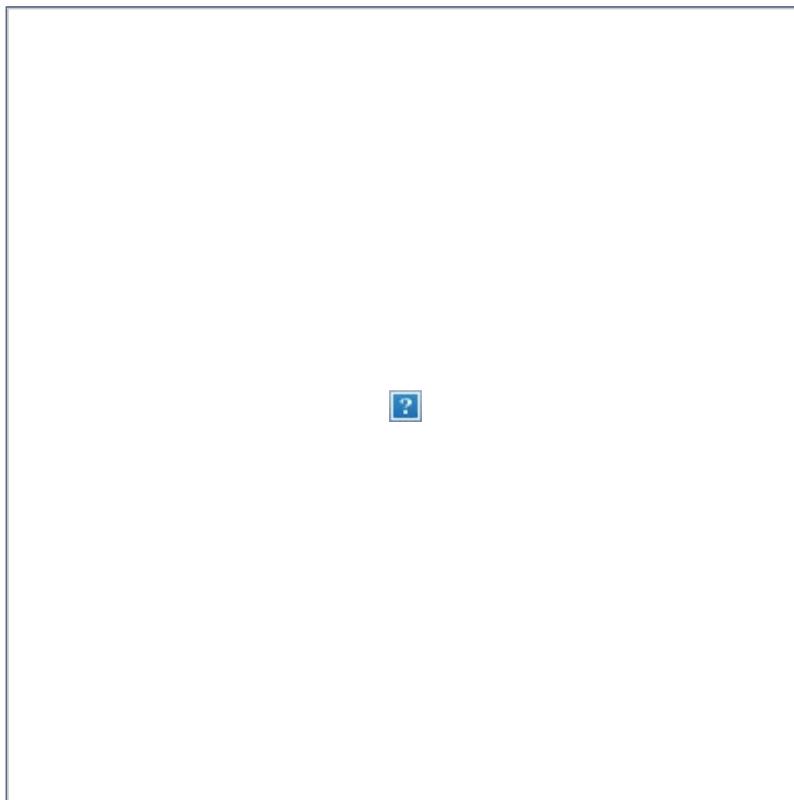
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

Le Château Ravagé Par Un Incendie

06/24/10 69 W, 1 I - + 12 - 13

Found on Firegeezzer, here's a neat incident photo showing apparatus at a castle fire in France. Yeah, that's a phrase that won't read in American newspapers. Castle fire. That's also the land of single-purpose aerial apparatus. Chassis and aerial only, as in other Euro countries. [Raad Firegeezzer's report](#), which includes assorted links. Or click to slightly enlarge:



Le Courier Picard photo

Ahhhhh, the pump & tank on a ladder debate, it never gets old. Well, when I was assigned to Truck 8 (Seagrave w/o tank and pump) I can say it was nice because we had tons of compartment space. Sure, a downfall/pain is having to rely on an engine to always be available to pump to you at the big ones. Looking at a tiller though, without a pump and tank versus one with them, the difference in the length is nuts.

As far as having a pump/tank just in case you roll up on something? I've gone back and forth, but, looking at the three heavy rescues in the city which are pumpless/tankless and work out just fine, I'd be fine with a few trucks with no pump/tank. Heck, we're still doing it with as much "playing time" the reserve ladders see in the city (Snorkel). As noted here, <http://www.vententersearch.com/?p=473>, there are ways to make up for not carrying water, just gotta put the ol' thinking cap on.

Silver - 06/24/10 - 11:12

<http://www.piercemfg.com/DeliveryDetail...> Found this pretty interesting on the pierce website this morning. Talk about no pump and tank

ladder - 06/26/10 - 12:46

Pretty sharp rig that New Haven is.... I am kinda mixed on pump/tank Vs. no pump/tank.... I can see the benefits of it if the unit rolled up on a small fire, but that's what fire extinguishers are for..If it's a larger fire your more than likely you will have other units on scene by the time your

ready to make entry etc... If you need ladder pipe ops. well the hydrants are more than likely already in use and your going defensive... shut down the small lines run your line to the truck and start pumping.... oh yeah guess you need to figure your NP and FL to get the EP.... " A good Truckie takes the heat off a good FF " Take care and remember FTM-PTB-EGH

jkay - 06/26/10 - 13:35

Actually, Mike, "castle fire" has been heard more than once on the airways in the US. For example, in 1977 the ROCHROANE CASTLE in Irvington, NY was destroyed in a spectacular blaze. I'm trying to find pictures of that operation, but here's what it looked like pre-alarm:

<http://www.dupontcastle.com/castles/inde..>

[RWECC] - 06/27/10 - 21:00

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Here Comes The Heat

06/24/10 60 W, 1 I - + 15 - 9

Highest temperatures in two years. Very hot. Brutally hot. Tarzan hot. Stay hydrated and keep those rehab supplies handy. Or get thee to a swimming pool if you're off-duty. Back to the high eighties by next week. For extra credit, complete the phrase: "It's so hot outside..."



"Or get thee to a swimming pool if you're off-duty."

Please remember your sunscreen, and apply often... I had my sunscreen, applied twice on Saturday, and still ended up looking like a lobster.

And, Mike... "It's so hot outside, a sauna seems like a good place to cool off."

CJS (Email) - 06/24/10 - 07:26

Its so hot outside..... I am sweating like a whore in church.

Spanky - 06/24/10 - 16:59

"Its so hot outside.....a man from Hell would be afraid"

Chris (Email) - 06/24/10 - 21:16

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Wake Tech Announces New Degree in Fire Protection

06/25/10 342 W - + 14 - 13

[This NBC17 story last week](#) reported on a new degree program at [Wake Technical Community College](#). The two-year associate's degree program in Fire Protection Technology starts in the fall, will be held at the school's Public Safety Education Campus in Raleigh, and include course work in "hazardous materials, firefighting strategies, and fire investigations, as well as supervision and leadership."

It'll be offered to both high school students entering the field and professional who want to earn the degree. Wake Tech also has a "flip flop" schedule which gives students "the option of attending classes on alternating days each week to accommodate work schedules." The college is already the provider for in-service continuing education training for 4,000+ area firefighters. [Read the entire story](#).

The college web site [has detailed information](#) about the Fire Protection Technology program. Watch the rotating banner on the home page for that link. The web site is a bit difficult to navigate otherwise. Below is the full course list from the planning guide from [the program web page](#). See same for credit hours and additional information.

First Semester

- ENG 111 Expository Writing
- FIP 120 Intro to Fire Protection
- FIP 124 Fire Prevention & Public Ed
- FIP 128 Detection & Investigation
- FIP 240 Fire Service Supervision
- Major Elective

Second Semester

- FIP 132 Building Construction
- FIP 152 Fire Protection Law
- FIP 220 Fire Fighting Strategies
- ENG 112 Argument-Based Research
- MAT 140/A Survey of Mathematics
- Major Elective

Third Semester

- FIP 221 Adv Fire Fighting Strat
- FIP 232 Hydraulics & Water Dist
- FIP 248 Fire Svc Personnel Adm
- FIP 276 Managing Fire Services
- PSY 150 General Psychology
- Major Elective

Fourth Semester

- FIP 229 Fire Dynamics and Combust
- FIP 230 Chem of Hazardous Mat 1
- FIP 244 Fire Protection Project
- HUM 230 Leadership Development
- Major Elective

Major Electives

- COE 111 Co-op Work Experience I
- COE 112 Co-op Work Experience I

- COE 121 Co-op Work Experience II
- FIP 136 Inspection & Code
- FIP 144 Sprinklers & Auto Alarms
- FIP 156 Computers in Fire Svc
- FIP 164 OSHA Standards
- FIP 228 Local Govt Finance
- FIP 236 Emergency Management
- FIP 256 Munic Public Relations
- FIP 260 Fire Protection Planning
- FIP 277 Fire and Social Behavior

This program has been long awaited. It will provide our local responders with a fantastic opportunity to achieve their secondary education. Hats off to Wake Tech!!

A.C. Rich - 06/25/10 - 14:12

Brings back memories of driving from Cary to Wilson two days a week back in 19...well...a long time ago.

DJ - 06/25/10 - 18:05

Don't worry DJ... in your case, it's not a knock on your age, but a statement of your commitment to what you do, and doing it the best you can.

CJS ([Email](#)) - 06/25/10 - 22:17

Got my degree from Durham Tech, finished in 90's... It has gotten a lot easier attain since then, with all the online classes and such.

AB - 06/27/10 - 17:12

That's right, back then you had to take the English and Math courses on campus. Remember when it was quarters?

Rob Mitchell - 06/28/10 - 20:49

yes...driving to briggs ave and then Treyburn! Glad gas was cheap then.

AB - 06/28/10 - 21:33

I too remember!! The N.Durham Campus was not too old then and the drive was actually not that bad (cutting through the country and dodging deer!). Getting to the main campus seemed somewhat scary at times! DTCC Class of 1996.

A.C. Rich - 06/29/10 - 00:50

We still had to go to the NDC a few years ago to take the fire investigations class, the only one you couldn't take online. That was a heck of a drive from Wake Co.

I don't think that the degree is any easier to obtain as it still requires a tremendous amount of effort and personal drive. Not having to actually go to class means that you have to keep up with blackboard and when assignments were due on your own. That and if you didn't understand a concept you had to work that much harder to work through it.

DTCC Class of 08&09.

shevais - 06/29/10 - 10:30

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

Remember personal info?

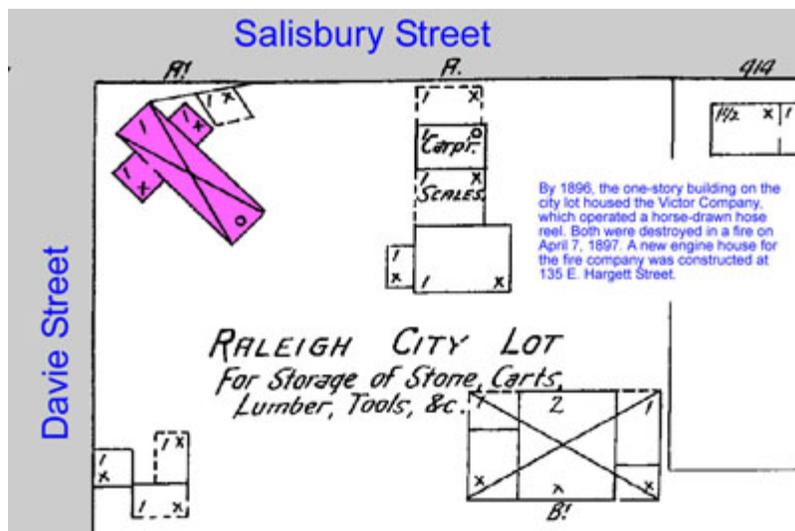
Yes

No

Still More Sanborn Maps

06/26/10 149 W, 1 I - + 13 - 8

He never tires about blogging about [Sanborn Maps](#), those marvelously detailed maps from the late 1800s and much of the 1900s, that documented fire equipment, water supplies, buildings, and other infrastructure of locales across the country. [See such maps from North Carolina](#). Mike's latest map play involves Raleigh maps and a set of digital crayons. He's extracted those pages containing diagrams of then-current and then-former fire department facilities. Mostly fire stations, but the alarm house as well. The idea isn't new-- [see this web page of his](#)-- but the color scheme is a change. And the streets are now shaded. And notations have been added. Got the idea from a [Detroit discussion board](#), and someone's highlighting of former fire stations there. [View the Sanborn Map excerpts](#). And just ignore Mike speaking in the third-person. Must be the heat.



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

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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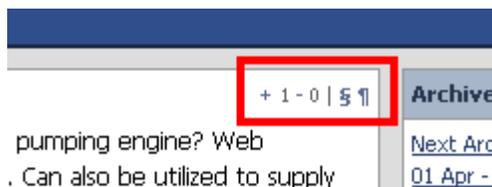
What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?

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

Votes For Posts

06/27/10 58 W, 1 I - + 13 - 10

Repeat of 2008 posting. Those little plus (+) and minus (-) signs to the right of each blog entry? Those are voting links. Click to indicate if a particular entry is "good" or "bad". Or, wait and vote after comments have been received. Good posts don't always equal good comments, and vice versa.



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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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The Great and Powerful Ozz

06/27/10 258 W, 1 I - + 15 - 15

Since it's Sunday morning, let's cruise off-topic and talk about [Ozzy Osbourne](#). Singer-songwriter of many decades. Reality television star and occasional huckster in recent years. Ozzy has been in the news lately, and most curiously as recently reported by the *The Sunday Times*. Get this, the Oz-Man's genome is being sequenced. Why? Researchers are dying to know how he's lived so long, given his decades-long history of drug and alcohol abuse. Google finds that story easily.

Ozzy's substance abuse is gleefully chronicled in his autobiography [I Am Ozzy](#). As ghostwritten with Chris Ayres, the thing is an absolute hoot. Tons about Ozzy's Black Sabbath days. Tons about his infamous exploits. The dove. The bat. The Alamo. *The Osbournes*. And all those drugs and bewildered physicians therein. At point, his body developed AIDS as a response! Great reading, and very (and expectedly) British in language.

Osbourne is also promoting his new album, *Scream*. His first studio album in three years was released last week. It's enjoyable and very polished, though a bit staid in songwriting. Here's a [good Wiki article](#) on his discography. The album also debuts a new guitarist, Gus G. He seems pretty strong. Here's a [nifty Wiki article](#) on all band members. There's also an insert in the *Scream* jewel box, announcing the coming 30th anniversary versions of *Blizzard of Ozz* and *Diary of a Madman*. Fully restored, rare tracks, even demos on deluxe versions. Oh man. Everybody, let's go back to the early Eighties!



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

Remember personal info?

 Yes No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Funny Sign

06/27/10 36 W, 1 I - + 13 - 12

Seen on the east side of Durham. Shopping center with an EMS station inside? Negative, instead it's [EMS Environmental](#). Private industry, unrelated to emergency medical services.



Hwy 98 at Joyland (just before the US 70 interchange). Oh wait, this is not a mystery picture... Oops.

A.C. Rich - 06/29/10 - 00:52

Dont let the name fool you, there is no Joy in Joyland!

DCEMS - 06/29/10 - 10:16

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Update on New Hanover County Consolidation Plans

06/29/10 176 W, 2 I - + 17 - 20

FireNews finds [this WECT story](#) on the latest from New Hanover County, and plans to move Castle Hayne, Federal Point, Myrtle Grove, and Wrightsboro fire departments under county control. Firefighters raised concerns to county officials at a meeting on Monday night, as well as presented a petition from hundreds of county residents.

They took issue on points ranging from the timetable (the county should move a bit slower) to the data (the volunteer response numbers are actually higher). Touted benefits include improved ISO ratings, more efficient operations, and reduced redundancies.

A combination of paid and volunteer personnel would continue, with the latter consisting of either certified firefighters or Fire Corps members, who are not certified and do not fight fire. County Commissioners will vote on the plans in August, which is a two-month extension.

[Read or watch the story for more](#), which includes copies of the [Recommended Action Plan](#) , and a map showing the [fire districts before and after](#) . Also see [this Star-News article](#) on the subject from Monday.

The action plan document even includes apparatus photos, which is an interesting twist. Usually it's text and maps and maybe stock images in reports like this.

Legeros - 06/29/10 - 18:10

Lets hope Wake County listens and looks to see how things work out.

Listen Wake - 06/29/10 - 19:40

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!!!!! It didn't take as long as I thought...

Silver - 06/29/10 - 19:41

The ISO Rating would go down Station 52 the county's newest station in northern New Hanover County is actually a 9S rating they are just piggy backing off of Castle Hayne's 6 iso Rating

Anonomus - 06/29/10 - 19:43

The action plan states it is comprehensive in the executive summary, however it is not as there are no budgetary or cost related projections. Indeed there are some interesting elements and key words that are truly appealing, but one key element is missing... how much will it cost? Cost projections and/or budget models should be included in the short, intermediate, and long term projections of the transition – it is essential for planning. Also, what are the county's trends (tax revenue forecasts, annexation projections, development statistics)? I am truly interested to understand NHC's methodology as it relates to cost (the pros and cons). A comparison will be helpful, especially if Wake is to even consider this as a model to "track." For example, have the additional staffing expenses been evaluated to address the worst case scenario if the volunteers all walk out? I'm sure it has been, but it needs to be part of the plan if a true evaluation is to be performed. Is there more information?

A.C. Rich - 06/29/10 - 22:21

Related story from a reader, Castle Hayne FD looking to incorporate, <http://www.wect.com/global/story.asp?s=1...> Not sure how that exempts them from the intention of the county plan.

Legeros - 06/30/10 - 07:28

"Anonomus," welcome to the blog. Maybe some others from down that way will add perspectives, and on all sides.

The fire service stands on shoulders, that's how things happen. The lessons of the past lead the actions of the future. What New Hanover experiences will probably map to other other urban counties in future times. That's to be expected. A century ago, the volunteer Raleigh Fire Department was approaching a period of transition. City officials, and even the Fire Chief took time to visit paid departments, and those that had reorganized as same. Change is constant, and usually doggone challenging.

Legeros - 06/30/10 - 07:35

I think the article is not exactly correct in its writing. At present OSFM/NCDOI require rural departments to be incorporated. However, if the area of Castle Hayne were to incorporate then the municipal corporation would be able to provide fire protection in whatever way it deemed appropriate. That could mean contracting with Castle Hayne FD as Garner and Wake Forest do with their respective FD's in Wake County. Or they could seek to have the assets of the FD transferred to the new town and create a town fire department. Or they could contract with the county for protection. It sounds to me as if the FD is pushing municipal incorporation of community. Many years ago Bahama residents along with the Bahama FD sought to do this but they were within the Durham ETJ so they couldn't. Efforts were made to get Rougemont to do it but that failed.

All of this is quite interesting. New Hanover has pursued this from the beginning by taking over poorly funded departments that were also struggling for personnel/volunteers. That makes it much easier than dealing with a system like Wake County where funding has already been addressed and there seem to be more volunteers (at least at some stations). They also began this in the early 1990's.

D.Cates - 06/30/10 - 12:59

Merging of unincorporated districts seems like a logical future for Wake County, however the logistics are addressed. But probably a far-out timeframe. Ten years hence?

Legeros - 06/30/10 - 17:20

Agreed Chief Cates. The assessment is definitely lacking some "meat." However, I believe it may be cheaper for a new incorporated town to contract with the county though(?) – Who knows unless we are able to evaluate the financial information.

A.C. Rich - 07/01/10 - 00:35

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E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

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Comment:

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Big Fire on Bald Head

06/30/10 198 W, 2 I - + 21 - 18

Speaking of the Cape Fear coast, [FireNews also finds](#) this dramatic photo of a house fire on Bald Head Island from Tuesday night. David Sanacore took the picture posted by StarNews Online. The island Public Safety Department responded, along with Yaupon Beach, Oak Island, and Southport fire departments. Since the island is accessible only by ferry, Coast Guard boats and a passenger ferry were utilized. The fire was reported about 8:45 p.m. Arriving units found the house "fully ablaze."



David Sanacore/StarNews photo

Cars are not permitted on Bald Head Island, and residents instead roll around in golf carts. Just how many people are we talking about? Says [this Wikipedia article](#), the 2000 census recorded 173 people, 88 households, and 71 families residing in the Village of Bald Head Island. Does the village comprise the entire island? And are there seasonal residents that arrive? Maybe readers can enlighten. As for the [Public Safety Department](#), their web site shows a modest fleet of apparatus, including a telesquirt, what looks like an engine and a heavy rescue, a couple ambulances, and a water rescue unit. Click to enlarge:



Bald Head Island Public Safety photo

Public Safety runs the telesquirt and 1 of the International engines out of the main station with the 2 ambulances and a sub station is way on the other end of the island with 1 engine with a future expansion of the station for personnel. They have volunteers that support the paid

crews and they are mostly the year round residents. As far as vehicles, contract workers are allowed to have vehicles on the island during the day and the police runs Jeep Cherokees. It is a very interesting place but the paid crews stated its "John Wayne" time for a while until volunteers arrive or mutual aid companies.

car3550@yahoo.com - 06/30/10 - 23:19

It looks like they have an awful lot of equipment for the number of homes and people on the island. How money paid members does the department have? How big is the island in area?

Mark - 12/24/11 - 19:09

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Maggots on a Plane

07/01/10 198 W - + 9 - 2

You'll be hard pressed to read a better opening paragraph this year than this, from [yesterday's AP story](#): "A flight bound for North Carolina was forced to return to the gate in Atlanta after passengers noticed maggots falling from an overhead bin." Google finds more. "Bugs just began to fall out of the overhead compartment," recalled a passenger, and which caused the expected panic.

Another person's account includes the words "fly" and "maggot" and "All of a sudden, I felt somebody flick the back of my hair." The plane never left the ground, and the pilot returned to the gate, declaring a "minor emergency on board." The cause was a container of spoiled meat. Unknown if beef, lamb, chicken, pork, or mystery meat.

Rejected titles for this blog posting are below. Thank you and good night.

- Bugged Out
- Bugs in a Bin
- Grub a Dub Dub
- Larvae of My Life
- Cabin Fever Indeed
- Warning: Do Not Eat
- Bugs 1, Passengers 0
- Rancid, The Definition
- Maggots By The Gross
- Spoiled Meat Spoils Flight
- When Flies Fly, People Flee
- But What Did The TSA Screeners Find?

Samuel L. Jackson has already been hired for the movie. His catch line is "I have had it with these m_____ maggots on this m_____ plane!"

rfburns - 07/01/10 - 08:59

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'?

Louisville Line of Duty Deaths

07/01/10 238 W - + 7 - 4

Random historical data, from the [Louisville Fire Department web site](#), which we were browsing this morning. The department has 21? stations, 500+ members, and responds to 50,000 incidents a year¹. The site's history section includes a [text history of the department](#) that totals 18,500 words, a historical [summary by year](#), and a seemingly staggering [list of duty deaths](#) dating to the 1860s. They've lost 80 members since 1862, plus members of the volunteer LFD, as well as salvage corp members. Statistical distribution of the 80 duty deaths by decade:

- 1860s - 1
- 1870s - 1
- 1880s - 8
- 1890s - 17
- 1900s - 15
- 1910s - 4
- 1920s - 18
- 1930s - 7
- 1940s - 1
- 1950s - 1
- 1960s - 3
- 1970s - 2
- 1980s - 1
- 1990s - 1

The earliest decades were the worst, with the 1880s to 1920s a particularly deadly period. Is that a trend that's been experienced in other or comparable departments? Don't know. Context is also needed to fully understand the data. What was Louisville like both before and after the turn of the century? How were the buildings built, what were the hazards faced, and what tactics were used? Lots that isn't known by Yours Truly, but perhaps presents itself upon reading their history. Speculations or conclusions perhaps forthcoming.

¹The largest city in Kentucky is also the 16th largest in the United States, though that might be ranked to include the city-county merger of recent years. The 2000 population of the city, pre-merger, was 256,321. The 2009 population was 566,503.

By way of irregular comparison, by-decade duty deaths in Boston:

- 1850s – 5
- 1860s – 7
- 1870s – 10
- 1880s – 9
- 1890s – 14
- 1900s – 13
- 1910s – 20
- 1920s – 9
- 1930s – 9
- 1940s – 21
- 1950s – 10
- 1960s – 12
- 1970s – 27
- 1980s – 6

1990s – 5
2000s – 5

Total 182

Source: <http://www.cityofboston.gov/fire/memoria..>

Legeros - 07/01/10 - 22:07

Couple other comparisons. About the only pattern found isn't related to data, but data sources. It is harder than expected to find via Google lists of line of duty deaths for major cities, such as Chicago, Detroit, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, St. Louis, etc.

Houston

1890s – 1
1900s – 3
1910s – 3
1920s – 12
1930s – 4
1940s – 5
1950s – 12
1960s – 3
1970s – 4
1980s – 3
1990s – 2
2000s – 5
n/a – 2

Total – 59

Source: <http://www.houstonfiremuseum.org/lodd.ht..>

—

New York City

1860s – 9
1870s – 17
1880s – 28
1890s – 19
1900s – 69
1910s – 59
1920s – 72
1930s – 81
1940s – 97
1950s – 109
1960s – 108
1970s – 67
1980s – 21
1990s – 26

Total – 782

Source: http://www.nyfd.com/history/line_of_duty..

Data through 1998, as compiled by dispatcher Mike Boucher at S.I.CO

—

How was this data mined? Contents of web pages were pasted into Microsoft Word, and then converted into tables, where the columns are created based on the characters separating the year from the other information in each line. Table posted into Microsoft Excel, and a function used to retrieve the last three characters in the year. Results sorted and tabulated. That's the gist of the steps.

Legeros - 07/02/10 - 06:42

Couple more.

District of Columbia

1850s – 1
1870s – 1
1880s – 1
1890s – 13
1900s – 6
1910s – 15
1920s – 6
1930s – 16
1940s – 13
1950s – 9
1960s – 6
1970s – 4
1980s – 3
1990s – 4
2000s – 1

Total – 99

Source: <http://www.dcfcd.com/lodd.php>

—

Milwaukee

1870s – 1
1880s – 5
1890s – 15
1900s – 18
1910s – 23
1920s – 15
1930s – 7
1940s – 7
1950s – 6
1960s – 2
1970s – 2
1990s – 3

Total – 104

Source: <http://www.milwaukee.gov/MFDFallenFirefi..>

Legeros - 07/02/10 - 18:38

What's News?

07/02/10 168 W - + 11 - 3

The fiscal year has ended. New budgets have been approved. Here's some of what's happening with area fire departments, gleaned from news reports, web docs, and other sources. That is, at least with stations, equipment, and personnel. Add, expand, correct as needed.

Apex

- New ambulance chassis for Unit #2.

Cary

- Station 8 construction, Mills Park Drive area.
- Fire academy starts July 6.
- Replacement for Rescue 4.
- Aerial ladder to replace Vehicle 1446, the reserve 1995 Mack service truck.
- Old Engine 1 still being repaired.

Durham

- Station 15, just opened in Treyburn. Utilized existing personnel.
- Station 9 development, relocating from E. Club Boulevard, new location Camden Avenue and Midland Terrace.

Garner

- Station 4 completion, late 2010.
- Seven positions added, cost-shared with county.

Morrisville

- Station 1 construction on Town Hall Drive.

Raleigh

- Fire academy in progress, ends in December.
- New tiller, due early July.

Wake County

- Fire academy started July 1.
- Nine positions added, not yet allocated.
- Five engines to be replaced, Fuquay-Varina, Garner, Hopkins, Stony Hill, Wake Forest.
- Two rescues to be replaced, Fuquay-Varina, Holly Springs.

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Judge Orders Identities of Bloggers Be Divulged

07/02/10 125 W - + 5 - 6

Anonymous is anonymous, right? Maybe not necessarily, as [this WRAL story](#) passed along from a reader reports. Superior Court judge has ordered a Henderson blogger to reveal the identities of anonymous posters who made defamatory comments about a former county commissioner. The blog is called [Home in Henderson](#). The offending comments were posted in response to a news story last year, and involving charges involving rental property involving people living in unsanitary conditions therein. Searching the HiH site finds assorted related stories, including [this one from April](#), when the former commissioner filed the intent to sue. Reader comments total 144 on that one. Read, digest, react. Discuss as desired. More later, after Yours Truly does additional reading as well.

From a purely legal standpoint:

The WRAL story is a big confusing... it first states that the speech is protected under the First Amendment and isn't libelous, but then orders disclosure of the names. Quoting...

"Tommy Hester wanted to get the names of up to 20 people who made anonymous posts on the Home In Henderson website, but Judge Howard Manning ruled Monday that the other posts weren't libelous and were protected by the First Amendment."

WEREN'T LIBELOUS and WERE PROTECTED. So... why the need to order them turned over?

As for me and my blogging here, I can tell you that Mike is the first one to quash so-called "trashing" of others, when it crosses the line. As I have not read the subject of the above case, I don't know whether or not it crossed the line. But, there is also the general precept of being nice while proving your point. It's fine if you want to disagree, but simply disagree, don't slam someone else.

CJS ([Email](#)) - 07/02/10 - 09:57

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.

Big Fire Fort Bragg

07/02/10 81 W, 1 I - + 9 - 4

The holiday weekend starts with a warehouse fire at Fort Bragg this afternoon. [WTVB has posted](#) the below photo. Looks like a tower and a stick in the area, plus a master stream on the ground. Location ~~off Long Street at Karen Street~~ [Longstreet Road near Keerans Drive](#). Mutual aid from Spring Lake and Fayetteville. Building housed orchestra and band equipment of 82nd Airborne Division. More aerial photos probably coming.



The 82nd Airborne Division is asking anyone with instruments that they no longer use to donate them so the post can have it's traditional 4th of July celebration, complete with the 1812 Overture like always. If you can assist in this, please contact Warrant Officer Russ Houser at russ.houser@us.army.mil to help. The band lost everything — uniforms, instruments, music.

I've heard these guys play before... it's a great band. I only wish I could give back.

CJS ([Email](#)) - 07/02/10 - 20:30

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Apex Police Officers Awarded

07/03/10 87 W, 1 I - + 7 - 6

The Apex Herald has [posted a nice article](#) about three Apex police officers who received a Medal of Valor on June 16, during the department's annual awards ceremony. They received the medal, which is the department's highest honor, for their actions at the Super Target shooting on May 30. They were the first arriving officers at the incident, entered as a group believing that two shooters were present, and located and neutralized the assailant. [Read the entire article](#).



Apex Police Department / Apex Herald photo

Mike thanks for having the where with all to post this wonderful story about the Apex PD . Officer Jones remember has been put thru the ringer by the N&O and wral for his handling of an NCSHP police dog during training. Where is wral and the n&o when Jones(twice) and the other officers risked everything to stop a potentially very dangerous situation at the super target a few months ago. The town of Apex got this one right singling out these officers for using their training and doing their jobs very very well under extremely stressful circumstances too bad the n&o and wral cannot bring themselves to report with such vigor this story like they will if the NCSHP messes up like they have recently. Again thanks Mike for posting !!

Thanks - 07/04/10 - 20:27

Good news is easy to report! Thanks for your note. There is perhaps an interesting discussion to be had on editorial decisions and assumptions therein. Why does the news report what it reports? Someone else will have to field that one. This blog and the news reported or re-reported therein is neither revenue driven, nor regularly programmed. To name just a couple differences, of which there are many more! And least of which is the tropical attire of our "on scene" staff, ha ha.

Legeros - 07/04/10 - 22:46

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Garner Station 4

07/03/10 37 W, 1 I - + 8 - 4

Lee Wilson has posted a couple photos of Garner Fire Station 4, which is taking shape at [125 Spaceway Court](#). Opens in November. Combination fire and EMS facility. [See more photos from Lee](#).



Lee Wilson photo

GFD has also revamped their web site in recent months. The main page includes a "photo blog" of incidents, events, and activities. The site is located at <http://garnerfire.com>

Legeros - 07/03/10 - 08:19

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 Vehicle

07/03/10 18 W, 1 I - + 9 - 4

Or maybe just a lazy blogger? Also as photographed by Lee Wilson.



Lee Wilson photo

It's the new chief's vehicle at Stony Hill FD.....

A.C. Rich - 07/03/10 - 10:54

New chiefs vehicle for wcems

firefightr - 07/03/10 - 11:09

OK, just seeing if anyone was looking! I hope everyone has a great weekend!!

A.C. Rich - 07/03/10 - 11:13

So why did they choose not to pursue any further with the pickup chassis and utility bed?

EMS - 07/03/10 - 16:37

Why no Battenburg markings like the Chargers?

[ex-HPPD] - 07/04/10 - 12:11

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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

New Laws For Fireworks Safety

07/03/10 91 W - + 6 - 3

[Here's a WRAL story](#) about the new North Carolina law that governs fireworks operations. Any person using pyrotechnics for a public show must complete training and receive a license. Temporary permits can also be issued, and over 400 permits have been issued this year. The safety regulations were developed as a result of last year's fatal fireworks explosion on Ocracoke Island. Four members of a pyrotechnics crew were killed on July 4, when their truck exploded during unloading. [Read the article](#). Or visit the [OSFM for 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.

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

Yesterday's Second Alarm / Jackson Street

07/04/10 180 W, 1 I - + 11 - 2

Two alarms at [3809 Jackson Street](#), originally dispatched as 3704 Lexington Street. Reported by passing motorist. Engine 8 arriving at a two-story, wood-frame apartment building with 4,096 square-feet. Built 1983. Found heavy fire in front of building, in stairwell area linking first and second floors. Upgraded to second alarm by Car 10.

Engine 8 supplied two two-inch lines, from parking lot off Lexington Street. Ladder 7 deployed for roof access in parking lot off Jackson Street. Staging on Gorman Street. Two hydrants. Dispatched 12:44 p.m. Controlled at 1:37 p.m. Four apartments rendered uninhabitable. Fire damage to exposure building, second apartment building. Nearby motorcycle with melted tires. Five people displaced. No injuries. Cause determined as accidental.

Units on scene included(first alarm) E8, E20, E5, L7, R3, B3, (working fire) E14, C10, C20, A1, (second alarm) E1, E13, E6, L4, R2, B2, C5, C40, (medical) EMS 4, EMS 8, EMS 31, D2, M94, Evac 1 in place of T1, (coverage) E21, E18, L1, (relief) E13. Read coverage from [News & Observer](#) and [WRAL](#). Or see the excellent [photos posted by Lee Wilson](#).



Lee Wilson photo

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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Sticks in Southport

07/04/10 79 W, 1 I - + 5 - 12

Displayed for the occasion of the annual firefighter competition, which is part of the town's annual Fourth of July Festival. We wandered down to Wilmington for the day, and discovered the event underway as we arrived in Southport. Talk about fortuitous! Those are ladders, towers, telesquirts, and articulating platforms from Civietown, Leland, Sunny Point, Tri-Beach, and Winnebow. The town's telesquirt was parked. The word telesquirt is mine. The trademarked name is Telesquirt. [Click to enlarge:](#)



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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

Winter Park Fire Station

07/04/10 207 W, 1 I - + 4 - 6

The old station of the Winter Park Fire Department at [4601 Park Avenue](#) in Wilmington has been converted to the headquarters of the area's Disabled American Veterans. The station is a couple or perhaps many decades old. The department organized in 1951 with 23 volunteers, and incorporated in 1956.

Their station was annexed by the city in the 1980s. Most of their response area was annexed in 2000, which resulted in the county withdrawing station funding, and removing their remaining response area. To allow the department to remain recognized as a fire department, the county designed a former dump site as their primary response area.

The city contracted with Winter Park for protection in the area until 2005. The station closed and the department disbanded on October 31, 2005¹. Similar annexations impacted the Seagate Fire Department, which ceased operation about the time. [FireNews posted remembrances](#) at the time of the closure.



¹Google finds [this Star-News story](#) from September 2005, about WPFDF being contracted by the county to operate a station in the Murrayville area. Did that happen? Either for a short time, or the duration of the two-year contract? Corporate filings on the state's web site show the organization dissolved in 2006, which suggested negative.

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Now That's a Brush Truck!

07/04/10 41 W, 1 I - + 9 - 6

That's a Ford F-550 Super Duty / E-One monster mini-pumper, with model year unknown. Serves the Sunny Point Fire Department, which protects the Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal, which [we've blogged about before](#). Click toe enlarge:



Well, the chassis is a 2010.

Duda - 07/05/10 - 07:42

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

Let the Games Continue

07/04/10 50 W, 1 I - + 5 - 3

This panoramic image from yesterday's firefighter games in Southport was taken about two hours into the event. They're preparing for another barrel push. What's the correct name for that context? Examine closely and you can probably spot the seams. 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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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

Mystery Apparatus

07/04/10 28 W, 6 I - + 3 - 5

Digging through some photo prints this morning. These aren't much of a mystery, really. Heaven help those who travel with fire buffs. Click to enlarge:



Top left military truck might be Nags Head.

DLH - 07/04/10 - 11:48

Bottom two. Greensboro FD in front of then Jefferson-Pilot building, now Linclon Financial. Squad 5, a 1987 E-One. Truck 5, a 1974 ALF. Eng 5, a 1988 E-One. Reserve Engine, a early to mid 1970s ALF. Car 1, a 1987 Chevy Caprice. Eng 4, same as Eng 5.

[ex-HPPD] - 07/04/10 - 12:07

Middle Left Durham FD. Old Ladder 12 Grumman year?, was sold off to other department.

answer - 07/04/10 - 15:47

Clayton Engine 5, 1968 Ford surplused and donated to Blue Jay FD in Bertie County.

L Barbee - 07/05/10 - 11:07

Truck 5 was delivered yellow, one of the first after GFD went to yellow in 1974. It was the first piece of apparatus re-painted red over white when yellow was abandoned in 1987. Engines 4 and 5 were the first ordered from the factory red over white after the change. The three 1987 squads were eventually re-painted red over white before they were disposed of. The battalion chief cars were a hideous beige color.

Subsequent cars were solid red and are now white. Engine 5 was involved in a 10-50PI on 4 July 2002 at Holden Rd at Hobbs Rd. I'm not sure if it ever returned to service.

[ex-HPPD] - 07/05/10 - 21:26

The truck top left is from Nags Head. 1970 Kaiser M-35 6x6, 150/300.

BFD1151 - 07/06/10 - 19:31

A little fact, just in case anyone cares; the Grumman tower from the Bull City saw service at Ladder 1. It had two airpack seats in the front, one for the officer and the other for a crew member. The rear passenger portion was unbearable due to the heat coming from the "dog box"/motor, so one member got to ride up front. Sucks to be the rookie...

Silver - 07/06/10 - 20:56

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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New Fire Stations in Wrightsville Beach and Southport

07/04/10 147 W, 4 I - + 8 - 11

The holiday blog blitz continues with photos of new fire stations in Wrightsville Beach and Southport. The former is part of a \$6.1 million, 26,000 square-foot public safety building, and appears ready for occupation. Check out those "stoplights" in the bay, which we've seen locally in Apex Fire Station 4. There's also a genuine fire pole in the thing. [Here's a Star-News story](#) about the recent ribbon cutting.

The Southport fire station appears to be few more weeks away from completion. Big honkin' building, at that. Believe the old station gets turned over to the rescue squad, which share the current structure. Or a part of same. More photos to be posted later. The station also includes a second outdoor building to display the town's antique fire engine! How cool is that? Love the accordion-style apparatus doors, also.



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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Rockets Red Glare

07/04/10 27 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

Happy Fourth of July, as seen at the State Fairgrounds. Just keep those water cans handy through the wee hours. Click to enlarge:



Cool pic :)

Ansel Adams - 07/05/10 - 14:48

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Bahama Fire Department Celebrates 50 Years

07/05/10 133 W, 1 I - + 9 - 6

[The Herald-Sun](#) recently profiled the Bahama Fire Department in Durham County, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary. The volunteer fire department was formed on June 15, 1960, and was "galvanized later than summer" when the Mangum School in north Durham caught fire. Today, BFD covers some 40 square miles with 6,000 residents. Their \$670,000 annual budget is funded mostly by fire district taxes.

They have 11 vehicles, including support vehicles and an ambulance that's operated through the Durham County EMS system. They have "42 volunteers, 20 auxiliary members, and several paid, part-time" members. Four years ago they moved to 1814 Bahama Road, a new station about a quarter-mile from their old station. The former building is being used for storage, and will be sold at some point. [Read the entire article.](#)



Are they going to have an actual celebration at the station? and if so, when?

lee - 07/05/10 - 12:40

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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New Cruiser Style?

07/05/10 46 W, 1 I - + 9 - 9

Seen at the State Fairgrounds last night: a pair of Raleigh Police Department sport-utility vehicles, sporting black hubcaps instead of silver. Is this a new style for city police cruisers? Looks kinda cool. Very urban.



They're used for SEU (SWAT team), and I think K9. Those that carry around a lot of extra "stuff".

rfburns - 07/05/10 - 12:15

City of New Bern PD has a new police tahoe they use for traffic enforcement prett bad \$%# looking vehicle even has one of those rumbler sirens on it. But I always thought when the crown vics would lose hub caps it made the cars look cooler all black around the wheel

nbfrvollie - 07/05/10 - 12:36

rfburns is correct. "Specialized" units such as SRT/K9/D&V use the SUVs.

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/05/10 - 13:41

To me, black rims "set it off" as being more aggressive and tactical, less "parade-ready". Friend of mine is a Jersey state trooper, has an unmarked black crown vic, limo tint, and black "go to hell" rims.....frickin' sweet!

Silver - 07/05/10 - 19:51

Looks great. Glad to see the door pillar spot light. Would look better with blue bumpers rather silver. Does the tailgate have "POLICE" across the back?

[ex-HPPD] - 07/05/10 - 21:05

Awesome looking vehicle. Glad too see Raleigh not conforming to the standard single colored police vehicles.

AB - 07/05/10 - 22:24

"very urban"? Nah, add 18" wheels, billet grill, ground effects...THAT would be urban. But these do look pretty good. I have to agree that the blue bumpers would look better, as wood something other than blank wheels (hey, I', a product of big chrome bumpers, fins, and chrome hubcaps). Hey, chrome 'baby moons' would at a, well, unusual look....

DJ - 07/06/10 - 10:59

I hear ya DJ... some late 70's Bling!!

A.C. Rich - 07/06/10 - 17:31

Here are some pics front and rear. No "POLICE" across the back of this one.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/jacobinpage..>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/jacobinpage..>

c~hydrant - 07/06/10 - 20:54

Black is the new chrome. I hate chrome. I was glad when Ford went to grey wheel covers on the CVs a couple years ago. All Chargers come with black steel wheels with the Police Package having the option of "chrome" plastic true hubcaps (only the hub and lugs) or the aluminum-look 5-spoke wheel covers. If I'm not mistaken, most or all of the SHP's Police Package Tahoes have black wheels, too. It's part of the Police Package. Either way, those Tahoes do look pretty sweet, as long as they're not in my rearview mirror!

Duda - 07/07/10 - 09:12

Why don't you put some curb finders on there as well?

HAHA - 07/08/10 - 22:27

This is a K9 vehicle. These are not new.

evan - 07/07/11 - 18:14

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Wilmington Fire Boats

07/05/10 89 W, 1 I - + 6 - 6

For your holiday Monday enjoyment, here are photos of Wilmington's five (of six) Atlantic fireboats. Did some digging, and found these pictures along with assorted historical information. Popped everything [on a web site](#) including larger versions of the below images. Left to right, top to bottom are: Atlantic I in 1925, Atlantic III circa 1947, Atlantic IV, Atlantic V in 1987, and Atlantic VI in 2007. Photo credits include the New Hanover County Public Library, the Star-News, and MetalCraft Marine. Enjoy!



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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Car Fire, Gas Pump, Dash Cam

07/06/10 76 W - + 11 - 6

[Here's your video for the morning](#), found by Statter911 of a fully-involved gas pump and automobile in Quiet Dell, VA. The first arriving engine had their dash cam rolling and it captures the response (with a couple edits), the heavy smoke on approach, and arrival and extinguishment. The video concludes with a couple of still images. Plus, of course, a pun from Dave in his [Quick Takes](#) headline.

Holy SH^T he busted that red light at the interstate bridge! Never checked up...

J.Boggs - 07/06/10 - 17:49

PD had the road blocked on the left, no road to the right it seems. I love the member (more than likely a Chief) walking around in his denim shorts and FD t-shirt (although he did have his trusty radio). That must be the new summer line of PPE NC State has developed. TEACH BY EXAMPLE!!!

Silver - 07/06/10 - 19:28

Smart of the engineer to get foam going right away. They did a good job of knocking it down and then extinguishment. I like how the officer said "Let's do it right, guys!".

Duda - 07/07/10 - 09:21

Here's a comment that I posted on Statter's site, about this clip. Or, really, about the comments about the real or perceived speed of the engine in the clip:

I'd like to see a dash-cam clip on a roadway, with speeds at incremental levels, as a level-test for people who watch footage and attempt to guess the speed being traveled. You could make a series of clips. Apparatus driving 10 MPH. Apparatus driving 20 MPH. etc. Maybe such a thing's already been made.

Back to regular programming...

Legeros - 07/08/10 - 05:55

yeah, I saw the police car, and I have seen the idiots who didnt see the police car about 10 inches from my bumper. Just sayin. PD blocks quite a bit for us- since they go on most calls with us, and maybe we're just creating more of an opportunity to see the idiots ignore the popo. They say the only thing more dangerous than an emergency vehicle in an intersection is 2 emergency vehicles in an intersection

J.Boggs - 07/08/10 - 09:20

Regarding traffic, two things jump out at me ..

#1, the idiot at 0:45 who gets out of the way for the police car, but obviously doesn't check his mirror and pulls out in front of the fire truck
#2, at 1:35 in, i can see why the patrol car is blocking traffic from getting to the scene, but it would have been kind of nice for them to at least make an effort to get out of the way for the fire truck, instead of making it move onto the verge

Paul - 07/08/10 - 16:34

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Orange County EMS, Response Times, Budget

07/06/10 189 W - + 6 - 8

[This morning's News & Observer](#) reports on response times and budget additions for Orange County EMS, and with the provocative headline *Orange EMS Found to Take Too Long To Respond*. They open with a publicized incident from two years ago, and cite the average response times for both EMS response and county 911 call processing. They compare the former to national standards, and the latter to the state benchmark. They also contrast Orange and Wake average response times.

Segue into system improvements, and the second half of the article discusses what was and wasn't funded this year, for requested improvements to OCEMS. Four new medics join in January, and a new ambulance has been funded. Nine new medics were sought, along with new EMTs and new dispatchers.

[Read the entire story.](#) Discuss as desired, as there are a couple angles to consider. Is this a fair article, attention-getting but not necessarily alarmist? Should it be more, should it be less? Does it successfully explain the situation in language and examples that citizens and elected officials can understand and appreciate? Presuming they're reading, that is.

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

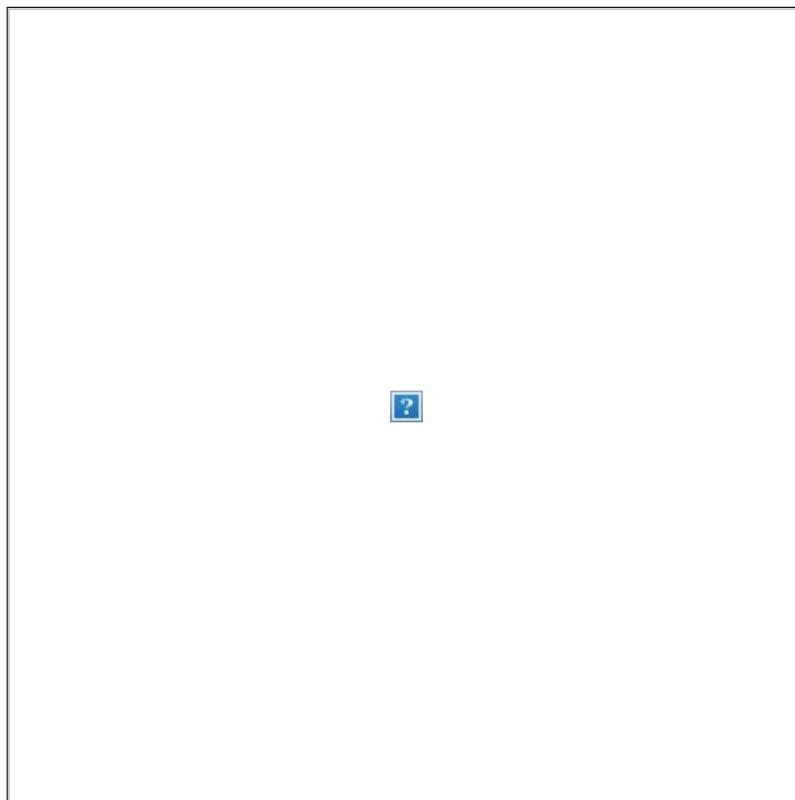
Going Off The Rails

07/06/10 169 W, 1 I - + 7 - 10

Legeros (below) and Lee [have posted pics](#) of Sunday's derailment near the Fairview Road crossing, off Capital Boulevard. Happened about 3:40 p.m. at Norfolk Southern's Glenwood Yards. The slow-moving freight had just arrived from the Linwood Yard in Davidson County. Two locomotives with 108 pieces of rolling stock. Cause not known. Also resulted in closure of the Jones Street crossing, downtown.

The seven cars stayed upright, though with damage both to them and the tracks. The lone tank car was carrying ethanol, and remained intact. The contents were subsequently off-loaded onto trucks, as the loaded railroad car was too heavy for their heavy equipment. Repairs began immediately on the tracks, and was still underway yesterday.

As for the fire response, Engine 1, Engine 13, Ladder 4, Rescue 2, and Battalion 2 were dispatched. Engine 1 was first on scene, and quickly determined there were no injuries, fire, or haz-mats. The EMS response was cancelled. Most of the fire units were soon released as well. See photos from [Legeros](#) and [Lee](#).



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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Zebulon's Ladder Returns

07/07/10 41 W, 2 I - + 11 - 6

[Lee Wilson has posted photogs](#) of Zebulon Ladder 95, a 1987 Grumman/KME 102-foot platform, 1500/200. which returned from the factory yesterday after undergoing a complete rebuild. [Read this earlier posting](#) for details on what was done.



Lee Wilson photos

the refurbished ladder truck looks great.

charlie - 07/07/10 - 13:09

Looks like it still has open jumpseats? If so, is this allowed since this was a refurb? I'm asking to see what standard that they go by, the orginal year of truck manufacture or refurb date? Thanks for the info!

JG - 07/07/10 - 13:19

The jumpseats have been replaced with compartments (somewhat visible in bottom photo). This was done due to the cost associated with enclosing them in, coupled with lots of bad stories about riding in them after enclosed. Most everything that was upgraded was done to meet the current standard (i.e. warning lights, ladder safety functions, platform railing/safety, etc.).

Zeb101 - 07/07/10 - 13:43

How many people does it ride due to the jumpseats being turned into compartments? I assume two (or three if it's a bench seat)?

Bob P. - 07/07/10 - 14:52

It rides three. the drivers seat, then bench seat holds two.

Zeb203 - 07/07/10 - 19:27

Does this truck respond mutual aid to the neighboring counties and communities outside of Wake County? And how often?

Pilot resident - 07/08/10 - 06:34

It has and will respond out of the county, but there have only been a few requests.

Zeb101 - 07/09/10 - 15:19

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Spencer Fire Apparatus Muster, August 28

07/07/10 121 W, 2 I - + 7 - 9

The Spencer Fire Department Auxiliary is hosting their second annual apparatus muster on Saturday, August 28, 2010, at the [North Carolina Transportation Museum](#). The event is a couple weeks earlier than last year's, and again focuses strictly on pumpers, tankers, aerials, and brush trucks.

Registration is \$25 per truck until August 21, and \$50 after that date. Staging is no later than 9:30 a.m. The parade starts at 10:00 a.m. The judging in nine categories starts around 11:00 a.m. Plus People's Choice and Best in Show awards. The awards ceremony starts at 4:00 p.m. And gates to the transportation museum open at 9:00 a.m.

[Here's the flyer](#)  and [here's the entry form](#) .

Driving time from Raleigh is about 130 minutes.

Last year's show was pretty good for being the first year. There are a few bugs that need to be worked out, but overall I would recommend any NC buff attend this show. There were about 30 trucks last year including a 1928 ALF from Elizabeth City and a bunch from the Landis native Tony Corriher that he personally owns.

BFD1151 - 07/08/10 - 19:48

Wow, the ALF from ECFD! That's cool, and also very scary. It's equally exciting and frightening when very old rigs travel or are traveled very long distances.

Legeros - 07/08/10 - 20:02

This was a nice event. Great for the kids as you can also take train rides. The transportation museum is neat with the emphasis around the historic Spencer Shops Southern Railway Maintenance Facility. It has a roundhouse and turntable along with a variety of old engines and coach cars. Definitely worth the trip!

D.Cates - 07/09/10 - 11:21

Mike, the '28 LaFrance wasn't driven all the way there, it was hauled on a gooseneck trailer then driven in the parade by ECFD members. As D.Cates mentioned, the museum is something else to check out and very informative. One thing they neglected to put however was the railway shops built their own fire apparatus bodies for a short time for many local depts, but there is no mention of this at all.

BFD1151 - 07/09/10 - 17:00

Figured it was trailer-transported. And that's still a little scary. Talk about precious cargo! But that's the conundrum always faced with Great Old Things. You can keep 'em secure and (often) isolated. Or you can share them and expose and add some risk, but gain the sharing and enjoyment and knowledge transfer with those who experience them.

Spencer Shops also operated a fire department from at least 1919 and until around 1979 or 1982. The town fire department was formed in 1903, says their history page, <http://www.ci.spencer.nc.us/html/history...> Check out a few historical photos on the site.

Legeros - 07/10/10 - 07:30

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Wendell Falls, Foreclosure, Planned Fire Stations

07/08/10 180 W - + 6 - 4

[This week's Eastern Wake News](#) reports that on the foreclosure of the Wendell Falls development. 'Twas a planned 1,400-acre suburb off US.64/264 between Knightdale and Wendell, and which would have 4,000 new homes. Things came a screeching halt, to use the paper's language, when the financial markets collapsed in October 2008.

Some road work was done, including the pricey Wendell Falls Parkway interchange. But that was because the state compelled the developer and bank to complete the work. No other work in the subdivision was done.

The fate of Wendell Falls also impacts fire service planning. As the project was, well, firing up, the county began longer-term planning for a fire station at Wendell Falls. Around FY15, if memory serves, as the time frame. The projected need for that facility has presumably dropped considerably.

And so it goes in the world of services planning. What's talked about a future service area-- and fire protection needs therein-- doesn't always come to pass. Developers go bust, projects get stalled, and that future fire stations are no longer needed.

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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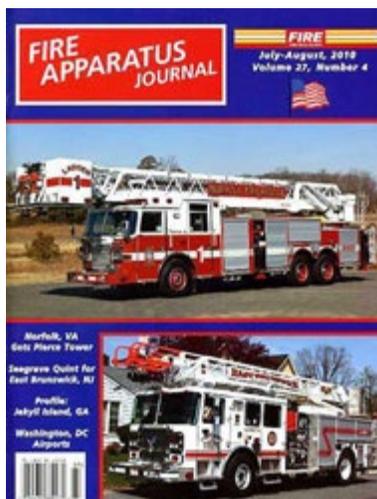
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

Best Magazine Ever

07/08/10 79 W, 1 I - + 10 - 2

There are exactly six great days each year, and that's when the latest issue of *Fire Apparatus Journal* arrives in the mailbox. The July-August 2010 issue arrived this week. There's some neat airport apparatus shown throughout, including a profile of Washington DC's two airport fire departments. Also a shot of a 1995 Seagrave pumper that Houston has refurbished as a funeral rig. And a bunch of other goodness. Best magazine ever.



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.

County-Run Fire Departments?

07/08/10 57 W - + 5 - 5

Random question of the day. How many county-run fire departments operate in North Carolina? Looking at the [OSFM directory](#) of fire and rescue departments, three appear to present themselves. Plus Forsyth County, which isn't listed, but operates a couple units including a county-wide special response unit.

- ~~Currituck~~
- Forsyth
- New Hanover
- Vance

Who else?

I don't believe there are any NC counties where an actual 100% county department exists, including employees and/or combination staffing (compared to our neighbors in VA and MD). Non-profits still proliferate N.C. New Hanover may be the actual "first" if their efforts continue(?).

A.C. Rich - 07/08/10 - 09:33

Currituck isn't a county run department. they still operate with 6 volunteer fire departments. Which are all ran by volunteer chiefs and staff. The county does operate several EMS units with staff that are crossed trained. EMS calls still take priority over fire. The county doesn't have a fire tax. I believe it is all pulled from the occupancy tax which 90+% comes from the beach. They have apparatus replacement plans that are kinda shady. You almost have to beg plead and barter to get a new engine. Funding is still the same across the board. They take a certain dollar amount which last I recall was 1.5 million and divide it by 6. Which this would work if all departments were the same size and covered the same amount of district and ran the same amount of calls. Moyock has 1 fire station, where as Lower Currituck has 3, but yet they get the same amount of money. Its something the county fire chiefs have been fighting for years. there are a total of 11 stations ran by six departments Moyock runs 1, Knotts Island runs 1, Carova Beach runs 1, Corolla runs 2, Crawford runs 3, Lower Currituck runs 3. Its a very broken system that the fire chiefs make work. There was one department that had two 8-5 guys but they were taken out of the budget back in 2008, as part of the county EMS trying to take over fire. One department did try to get the county to take them over but that proposal failed.

Adam Brown - 07/08/10 - 10:14

Tyrrell County only has one Fire Department in it, which happens to be Tyrrell VFD... but it's not county run, just the only one there.

CJS ([Email](#)) - 07/08/10 - 12:03

Forsyth County Fire Department is now integrated into Forsyth County Emergency Services. FCFD is in charge of the 911 center as well as dispatch for the individual town/city fire departments throughout the county, as well as county EMS dispatch – except for the Winston-Salem Fire Department. It does coordinate EMS/WSFD dispatch on a single radio channel for medical/rescue calls within the city limits.

As far as apparatus, FCFD has one suppression response unit (109) out of Station 9 (Smith-Reynolds Airport) as well as an ARFF unit and an Air unit from the same station. 109 gets dispatched to all fire alarms and working structure fires in the county, except within the city limits of W-S. FCFD also staffs a full-time Firefighter at Vienna FD (Station 20).

As of January 2010, Forsyth County Emergency Services also merged with Winston-Salem Rescue Squad (Station 6).

<http://www.winstonsalemrescuesquad.org/> Some of the units that are now under Emergency Services include: 600 (Mobile Command Unit), 603 (Heavy Rescue), 606 (Dive Unit), 607 (Trench Rescue) and the Animal Rescue Response Trailer.

The county-wide special response unit that you mention I believe is the EMS MSU, a MCI/Rehab/ unit that is housed at EMS headquarters (Station 8).

Hope this helps.

[Stovelegs] - 07/08/10 - 18:21

Great information, gang. Thanks Adam and Stovelegs.

Here are a few shots of the Forsyth units at the airport station, as well as the WSRS units: <http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/2009-1..>

Legeros - 07/08/10 - 20:04

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preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Truck, Fire, Pittsboro

07/09/10 31 W, 1 I - + 7 - 7

[WRAL posted a pair of reader photos](#) of a tractor-trailer truck fire yesterday afternoon in Pittsboro on Highway 64 near Mt. Gilead Church Road.



Rickey Spivey/WRAL photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Zebulon's Ladder Before

07/09/10 87 W, 1 I - + 10 - 7

Lee Wilson has scanned and [posted a couple film photos](#) of Zebulon Ladder 95 from 1991, when the recently refurbished rig was merely five years old. And the truck was the only ladder anywhere east of Raleigh, notwithstanding Knightdale's short-lived 1990 E-One quint. And remember film? Rolls of the stuff, and that required developing, and the storage of physical prints. Now it's just gigabytes or terrabytes of pictures, slowly accumulating on hopefully backed-up hard drives.



Lee Wilson photo

Is this the same truck that Glaxo purchased for Zebulon?

John Pershing - 07/10/10 - 07:26

yes

lee - 07/10/10 - 23:37

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

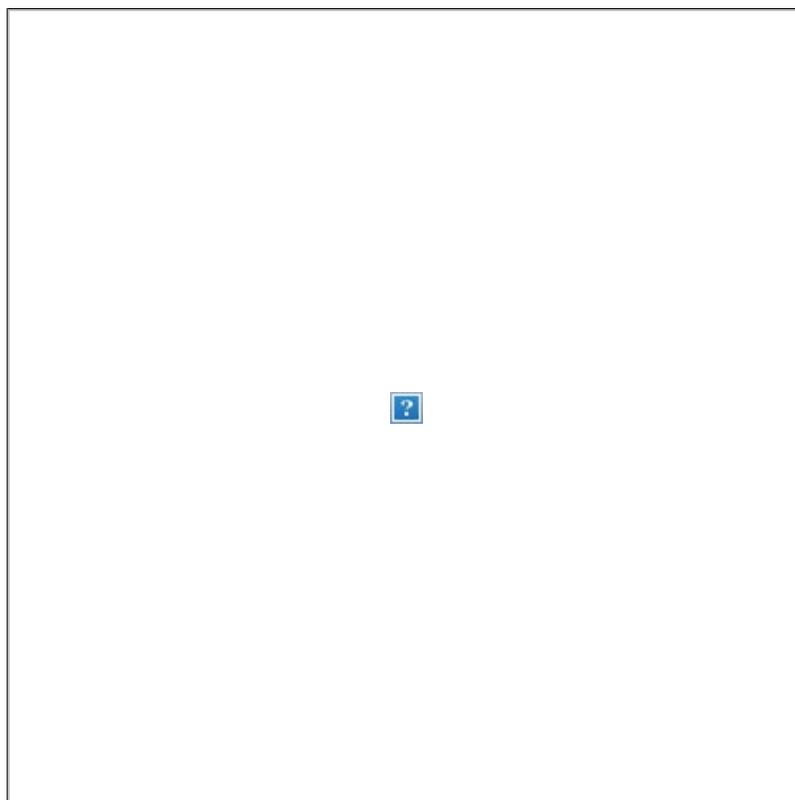
/ [Textile](#)

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Kannapolis Gets Seagrave Ladder

07/10/10 130 W, 2 I - + 9 - 5

Scroll down to the middle of [FireNews](#) and apparatus deliveries are listed, such as this sweet-looking 2010 Seagrave Maurader II 100-foot aerial ladder 2000/460/40 [recently delivered to Kannapolis](#). Some specs are listed, along with a larger version of the below photo. We don't see too many Seagraves around North Carolina, and this one's a beauty. Where else are Seagrave sticks in service around here? Recall late last year that we also researched the history of the [Kannapolis Fire Department](#), in [this post](#) and [another post](#).



FireNews photo

Updated with a closer view of the bumper, which is labelled Ladder 14 versus the lately popular Lad14der style a la FDNY, and which the FireNews Editor observes in his posted comment.



Make sure to click on the enlargement, then look at the front bumper.

Look at how much better (and graphically correct) it looks where they have

"LADDER 14"

as opposed to

"LAD14DER"

harkey ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/10/10 - 12:19

Updated with bumper pic.

Legeros - 07/10/10 - 12:42

Yeah, "LAD14DER" really screws with my dyslexia... not to mention the apparatus title with an odd number of letters. Oh, the spelling errors then (TRU1UCK, EM12MS, MED51DIC.)

A.C. Rich - 07/10/10 - 17:42

I've noticed over the last few years Seagrave is becoming much more popular in the state. Huge fan for Seagrave especially in Aerial Apparatus. I know down around Charlotte many companies are switching to Seagrave (Because they can afford it) but what's the likely hood of this part of the state phasing in more Seagraves?

PGTruckie ([Email](#)) - 07/10/10 - 22:06

I,too, like the "Ladder 14". Less for my simple mind to sort in the midst of a lot of activity. On another note, I just hope that "Q" on the front bumper does not encounter a deer or road-crossing dog. That happens where I live.

DLH ([Email](#)) - 07/11/10 - 19:01

The City of Brevard, NC in Transylvania County, has a 2008 Seagrave Marauder II Force 100' quint with 1750 pump. That truck was delivered in December of 2008. We also delivered a 2010 Marauder II Pumper 1750gpm/750gwt with rescue body and a 2010 International 7600 500gpm/2500gwt tanker in April of this year.

Thanks for the publicity Mike.

Seagrave trucks are sold based on people owning/riding them and sharing their experience.

Not a multi-million dollar marketing program.

Jay

Jay Adams ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/12/10 - 15:08

Nice ride...

Silver - 07/12/10 - 21:10

Cary FD has sold its older Seagrave truck company, and their older Seagrave pumper is currently waiting to be sold as well. They seem to be a bit more popular in the western part of the state, while sutphen (outside of Durham County) seems to be gaining popularity in the eastern part of the state.

CFP 7021 - 07/12/10 - 21:33

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

State Archives Reading Room

07/10/10 42 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

On the shelves at the [North Carolina State Archives](#) reading room are a couple of Raleigh Fire Department yearbooks, from 1984 and 2007. They should have the 2002 yearbook around there somewhere as well.



Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - *Location of Fires* « **Kannapolis Gets Seagr...** » **Matchbox Pierce Veloc...**
in Buildings, 1922

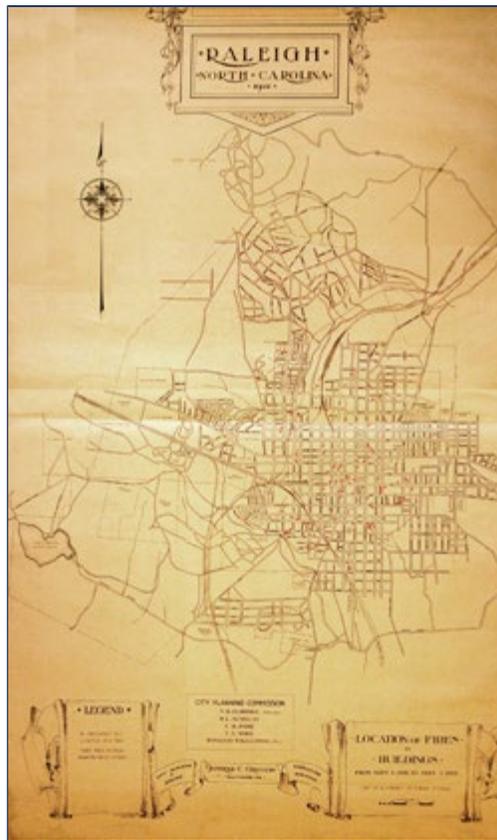
Location of Fires in Buildings, 1922

07/10/10 120 W, 1 I - + 9 - 5

Thanks to Mrs. Blogger for finding this. That is, finding a mention of this, in Scott Huler's book about Raleigh's infrastructure [On The Grid](#). This nifty city planning map from 1922 was photographed at the State Archives, and stitched together in passable fashion using PhotoShop Elements.

Same shows locations of fires in buildings from September 1, 1921 to September 1, 1922. The three fire station locations have been added as blue squares, Station 1 on W. Morgan Street, Station 2 on S. Salisbury Street, and Station 3 on E. Blount Street. Station 4 on Jefferson Street and Station 5 on Park Drive wouldn't be built for five more years.

Click once or twice to greatly enlarge (4.27 meg, JPG format):



Courtesy North Carolina State Archives

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Matchbox Pierce Velocity Tower

07/10/10 70 W, 1 I - + 10 - 11

Now appearing on store shelves is this Matchbox Pierce Velocity Aerial Tower, part of their Real Working Rig series. Nice companion to the [Pierce Quantum ladder](#) released last year. Scaled around 1/70 or 1/80. Bucket's too short, but otherwise pretty neat. Second version coming, if memory serves. Priced about \$5.00. And get ready for a Colet Jaguar crash truck, coming, also!



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

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Yes

No

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July Fire Commission Meeting Canceled

07/10/10 38 W - + 10 - 2

The Wake County Fire Commission meeting scheduled for July 15, 2010, has been canceled. This is a regular scheduled meeting. The next meeting is September 16, 2010. That is also a regular schedule meeting. See you there.

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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What Fire Stations Can Be

07/10/10 110 W, 1 I - + 11 - 5

Turning our attention to facilities, dig these [2009 design award winners](#) from the F.I.E.R.O. Fire Station Symposium. The latter event starts October 31 in Charlotte. The first one shown is Alexandria, VA. That's their first new station built in 40 years, and a four-bay facility with 21,953 square-feet, offices, day spaces, private bunk rooms, and even a below-grade parking garage. The building also houses 64 apartments on the four floors above the station! Quite a contrast to the small-scale facilities around these parts. Everybody's had or still has 'em, the shoebox stations. Thanks to Jeff Harkey for passing along.



Great post especially the info about Alexandria's Station 209. I visited the station in 2009 and took a bunch of photos which are posted via my Picasa public galleries. Check out the photos after the jump: <http://picasaweb.google.com/tangerine.ja..>

I've also posted a couple of these in my rotator on a new site I'm building that will chronicle & blog on the American Firehouse/Fire Station. Check that out here:

<http://firehouse.drupalgardens.com/>

Note – my firehouse site/project is very much still in planning stages and under construction so there's not a whole lot of content/images on there yet.

Best-

Trevor James
Fire Station/Firehouse and Apparatus Enthusiast
Middletown, MD

Trevor James ([Web Site](#)) - 07/11/10 - 14:26

Hmmmm....I bet not too many EMS stations will make a list like this...

DJ - 07/11/10 - 15:26

This Afternoon's Apartment Fire in Durham

07/10/10 48 W, 1 I - + 8 - 6

Three-story apartment building at [6205 Farmington Drive](#) and what looks like heavy fire damage to the roof and upper stories. With Durham, Chapel Hill, Bethesda, Parkwood, and Morrisville fire departments, for starters. Alarm time 3:18 p.m. says [this WTVD story](#).



WTVD photo

Lemme' guess...discarded smoking materials on a balcony????

Silver - 07/12/10 - 19:07

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.

Factory Efficiency Comes to the Hospital

07/11/10 166 W - + 13 - 10

For your Sunday reading enjoyment, here's a [fascinating New York Times article](#) about applying manufacturing and retail industry supply chain practices in hospitals. The context is process and patient flow improvements. The results are reduced costs and improved patient care. Most interesting is the story of a new building. After the new clinical and surgery facility was designed, the hospital staff conducted usability tests on same.

They worked in an empty office building, and used cardboard mock-ups of key locations. They played through various scenarios to test the building's design's effectiveness. The final version "reduced walking distances and waiting times for patients by grouping related facilities together and creating rooms that can be used for more than one purpose." Savings of \$20 million and a reduction of 30,000 square-feet.

Process improvement. Testing effectiveness. How well are people using what's been designed for them? Web teams conduct such tests all the time. Such change can be very good. [Read the article](#).

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

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 Yes
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Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Four Bagger in Big Apple

07/11/10 131 W - + 8 - 6

May have mentioned this before. In the days of steam engines, "bag" referred a bag of coal, that was delivered for steam engines at major fires. And a bag of coal would typically or ideally power a steamer for an hour. Thus a "four bagger" in referred to a four-hour fire, or say some of the fire history books that I have read.

Anyway, for Sunday viewing enjoyment, here's some nifty video from a Manhattan apartment building in New York City on Thursday. Part one of five. You've probably seen same on the fire blogs, notably on [Statter911 which has details and more links](#). Look at all the ladders arrive, and the sticks that start raising on each side.

This a five part video on You Tube. Poster arrived well before the first alarm assignment. Because this fire was top floor and cockloft there is little firefighting depicted. Cameraman is preoccupied with the smoke generated and it's direction at times. Still an interesting view of FDNY in action!

stretch - 07/11/10 - 23:38

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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This Morning's House Fire in Holly Springs

07/11/10 55 W, 1 I - + 12 - 7

Here's a reader picture from this morning's house fire in Holly Springs at [601 Skygrove Drive](#). Two-story, wood-frame residence with 1,664 square-feet. Built 2006. Holly Springs and Fairview fire departments, for starters. Dispatched about 4:20 a.m. Feel free to add incident details. Thanks DJ, for the pic. Great shot!



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'?

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

Wilmington Fire Boat Stations

07/11/10 28 W, 2 I - + 6 - 5

As shown on Sanborn Maps in 1910 and 1955. Added to this new page of [Wilmington fire boat 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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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

Wilmington Fire Department Headquarters

07/11/10 85 W, 1 I - + 5 - 7

From the print archives, here's another of North Carolina's once-standing central fire stations. Taken by Yours Truly in the late 1990s, as memory serves. The Wilmington Fire Department operated this building the corner of 4th and Dock Streets from 1956 to 2000. The five-bay building replaced two prior headquarters stations at that location. [Read about the station](#) and other historic and former WFD facilities. Memo to self, write an article some time about the state's great central fire stations. Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)
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Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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REDS Makes Mission Trip to Guatemala

07/11/10 138 W, 1 I - + 4 - 5

[WRAL has posted a story](#) about Garner-based Rescue Extrication Delivery Specialists (REDS), which is heading to Guatemala later this month to teach "local rescue crews how to handle road and vehicle emergencies." They're bringing donated items including a fire truck, an ambulance, and more than 60 sets of "fire gear, helmets, boots and gloves." They'll head to small villages that were crippled by recent tropical storms.

They traveled there last year in August, and [this page on their web site](#) chronicles their delivery of a rescue truck, and training for personnel. The trip was conducted through [Paramedics for Children](#), to train 50 rescue workers (shown below) in vehicle rescue techniques. They took 11 instructors, along with a donated vehicle from Pender County Rescue & EMS, and donated equipment.



REDS photo

Added photo...

Legeros - 07/12/10 - 07:31

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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
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Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Chapel Hill Museum Closes

07/12/10 88 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

Yesterday was the last day of operation for the Chapel Hill Museum. [Read the announcement](#) on the museum's web site. Funding issues. [Read this Herald-Sun article](#) for background. See related links at bottom of article. The museum is home to a permanent exhibit on the history of the Chapel Hill Fire Department. [Same opened in 2007](#) and was developed in collaboration with the fire department. Here are [some photos of the exhibit](#), collected on my Flickr site along with [other fire museums and exhibits](#).



Name: (real name preferred)

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Remember personal info?

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/ [Textile](#)

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

Watch That Font!

07/12/10 77 W, 1 I - + 11 - 2

From a friend, [here's an amusing story](#) from CNN about the [Comic Sans font face](#), and the reaction by readers-- or, if you prefer, font-sensitive readers-- of a posted message using the font and by a pro sports team owner. Key quote, paraphrasing said response: "Unless you're a fourth-grader, or being ironic, or the author of a comic book, or on vacation from the 1990s, never use that typeface." Funny stuff.



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

Remember personal info?
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Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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Knightdale Gets Grant For Firefighters

07/12/10 169 W - + 10 - 5

[Friday's announcements of the newest SAFER grants](#) includes \$287,158 awarded to the Knightdale Public Safety Fire Division for hiring. The grant is for three additional full-time personnel, one per shift. The addition will take their minimum staffing level to three firefighters. They'll be in place by October 2. Details of the SAFER grant have also changed. Previously, the federal government paid a diminishing percentage of the personnel costs for five years. Now, they pay 100% of the cost for two years, and the grant recipient is obligated to pay for an additional year.

They also recently received a \$102,000 grant for equipment and supplies, which is being used primarily to improve communications. The monies will be utilized for portable radios, a mobile repeater, SCBA voice boxes, and mobile data terminals for their engines. They also received a full set of IFSTA manuals and DVDs under the training portion of the AFG.

Last year, grant helped Knightdale Public Safety purchase their ladder truck, a 1997 Pierce Quantum [delivered in November](#).

Congrats Knightdale. When will the positions be posted.

SEfd34 - 07/15/10 - 19:12

Congrats KPS!!! Way to go and great job on the grant!!

A.C. Rich - 07/16/10 - 11:58

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

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Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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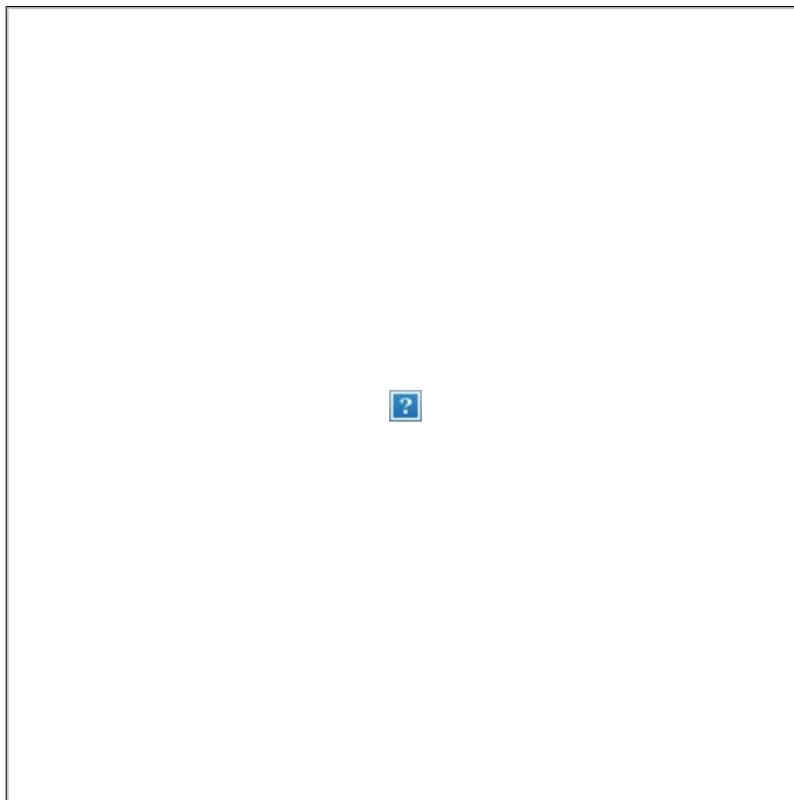
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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Thumbs Up!

07/13/10 131 W, 1 I - + 6 - 5

[Firegeezzer reports](#) on a landmark structure that burned on Martha's Vineyard yesterday. He links to the local paper, and their [coverage of same](#). Mr. Blogger has never been to Martha's Vineyard, but thinks that burned boathouse looks like the buildings in the movie *Jaws*, which is one of his all-time favorites. Director Steven Spielberg's [1975 film](#)-- and perhaps the original summer blockbuster-- was filmed in Martha's Vineyard.¹ How funny then to find the below photo posted on the newspaper's web site. When breaking news happens, even errant fingers can't get in the way!



The Martha's Vineyard Times Online photo

¹Couple good books on the movie, both the making therein and analysis thereof: [The Jaws Log: 30th Anniversary Edition](#) by Carl Gottlieb; [Jaws \(BFI Modern Classics\)](#) by Antonia Quirke.

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Vehicles Versus Buildings in Cary

07/13/10 129 W, 1 I - + 10 - 6

Last Tuesday, a passenger car entered and exited the House of Lights at [264 W. Chatham Street](#). The driver reportedly suffered a seizure. His 2000 Mazda crashed through the front door, then exited the building through a side wall. He was transported with non-life threatening injuries. The store re-opened on Friday. [Read the Cary News article.](#)

On Sunday and just up the road, a minivan entered Chef of India at [748 E. Chatham Street](#). The driver reportedly accidentally pressed the gas pedal. She was charged with "failing to reduce her speed." No injuries were reported at the second vehicle versus building. The van crashed through the front door, but did not exit. [Read the News & Observer article.](#)



Cary News / News & Observer photo

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.

Chapel Hill, Plane Crash. Parachute

07/13/10 108 W, 1 I - + 9 - 5

[WTVD posted about a dozen aerial photos](#) of yesterday's fatal plane crash in Chapel Hill at the Horace Williams airport. The apparent video capture has been lightened and adjusted for aspect ratio. Those Carolina blue pumpers aren't as high as the original image depicts.

[This Durham-Sun story](#) notes that the Cirrus SR20 aircraft was equipped with an airframe parachute system. Photos of the crash show that the 'chute apparently deployed. It's released through a solid-fuel rocket (!) that deploys through the rear of the aircraft.

Here's a [Wiki page on the parachute system](#), as well as an [article from Flying magazine](#).



WTVD photo

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - *The Problem with* « Chapel Hill, Plane Cr... » Cary CERT Team Gets M... *the Roundabout*

The Problem with the Roundabout

07/13/10 185 W, 1 I - + 8 - 9

Rode the roundabout the other day. The one on Hillsborough Street, right there at the bell tower. Though I had traveled the thing before-- during its many months of construction-- this was the first trip with completed signage and road markings. Now, I have driven on roundabouts before. I am a seasoned driver. I am a smart guy.* And yet I nearly barreled into the path of an oncoming car. Whiskey Tango Foxtrot?!?

Upon reflection, as well as reading [today's News & Observer article](#) about instructional needs of the new interchange, it occurs to me that the problem is this: there's too much information to absorb, upon arriving at the roundabout. There are elaborate road markings, and the signs, and the features of the road itself. Before you realize that you're brain is engaging trying to sort everything out, you're bearing down on a spot requiring a yield. I was surprised, and suspect other drivers may find themselves in similar situations. Or at least until we're used to the thing.



*Insert own sarcastic footnote.

The over complicated this roundabout!

RFDJunkie - 07/13/10 - 23:54

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Cary CERT Team Gets Mobile ~~Comment~~ Command Post

07/14/10 145 W, 1 I - + 7 - 6

[This Cary News article](#) reports that Cary's [Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\)](#) has received a mobile command post trailer. Acquired with a \$7,490 grant from the federal [Citizen Corps](#), the trailer has a communication center as well as storage space for equipment.

Cary's team is one of 138 registered CERT teams in North Carolina. The Cary program "includes four teams of about 250 residents." There's also a teen CERT program at Cary Academy, and 62 trained members at the senior residential community Carolina Preserve.

The Cary Fire Department hosts CERT training twice a year. It covers "basic emergency preparedness skills, medical training, search and rescue and disaster psychology." It also involves disaster simulations, so the trainees can test their knowledge. [Read the article](#), or read about the [national CERT program](#).



Included in the photos from Southport's firefighter competition were a couple shots of a Shalotte FD step van, labeled "Domestic Preparedness and Readiness Response Unit" and identified as "funded in part by NC Citizen Corps."

<http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/2010-0..>

<http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/2010-0..>

Legeros - 07/14/10 - 06:40

What is a "comment" post Mike.

ApexBatt Chief - 07/20/10 - 10:04

It's a specialized piece of apparatus used for mobile posting of comments to blogs.

Legeros - 07/20/10 - 12:34

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

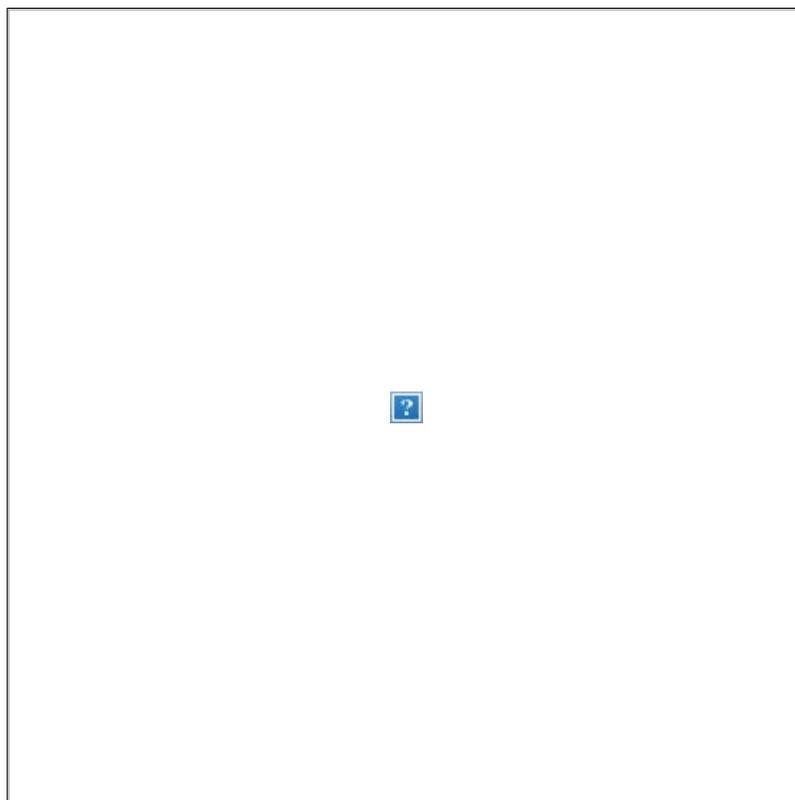
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Raleigh Police Department Volunteer Program

07/14/10 86 W, 2 I - + 8 - 6

Speaking of citizen volunteers, you've probably seen this vehicle about town. Same is operated by the Raleigh Police Department Volunteer Program. The program is operated by the police department in conjunction with the city's community services department.

[As this pamphlet notes](#) , members assist with a range of assignments that may include victim advocacy, translation services, security patrols in parks, telephone crime reporting, data entry, neighborhood watch planning, crime prevention programs, and special event assistance. [Learn more about the program.](#)



We as a fire service should learn something from this effort. It is actually already underway in many areas of the nation and state... known as the "Fire Corps." See this link for information: <http://www.firecorps.org/> Qualified volunteer assistance is extremely valuable when managed; and may be considered as one our best community outreach efforts. In my opinion, it extends beyond the CERT teams to a degree as it focuses on assistance directly to the organization. Hats off to RPD! Maybe others should take note(?).

A.C. Rich - 07/15/10 - 12:37

They should spend the money on another R.P.D. officer. There are other ways to get the community involved then to give them a vehicle with big letters "RPD" on the side with a with a lightbar. Some people may think or act like a RPD officer and it brings liability to the city. In the pamphlet it says the public in this program will be doing security patrols in the park. Again, not a good idea.

C. Smith - 07/15/10 - 14:22

(In my opinion) The vast majority of these programs are supported by grants and the "RPD" vehicle is not the impetus for community involvement... the program is. The COR Community Services Department is also a program partner. Also, simply having someone/something

around that says "security" is a strong deterrent to crime, but does not replace the "law enforcement." Maybe the program (proper) will allow officers and staff to focus on greater organizational needs. Liability is easily addressed with training and release waivers. Don't forget... our citizens are a very powerful ally and the elected officials are the direct representatives of them. As I alluded to earlier, we should look beyond the traditional service approaches. Programs such as this one may pay relative dividends when funding is requested for operational improvements. I believe it is truly affordable to take some risks to explore new avenues of service. Again, my 2 cents.

A.C. Rich - 07/15/10 - 14:54

"As I alluded to earlier, we should look beyond the traditional service approaches"

Right on, AC. If we don't, someone who does will come in and replace you/us before we even knew what was happening.

DJ - 07/15/10 - 15:10

The handbook for RPD volunteers is also available on the above site, <http://www.raleighnc.gov/portal/server.p..>

It notes, in the introduction, this information about finances: "The total cost of the program on a yearly basis is \$30,307.00 including vehicle maintenance and the salary of part-time program coordinators which is included in the current budget. The initial value of the program is expected to be \$70,236.00 based on the federal value and the accepted value according to the International Association of Chiefs of Police. This value is expected to expand considerably with the addition of future volunteers."

So they're basically doubling their money. Sounds like a good investment to me!

Legeros - 07/16/10 - 07:43

Caught this on the city web site, graduation ceremony for the first RPD volunteer academy, <http://www.raleighnc.gov/safety/content/..>

Legeros - 02/02/11 - 08:07

Key quote: "Since January 1, 2010 RPD volunteers have donated more than 3,400 hours of service to the department. They have worked in the police records section, patrolled neighborhoods and parks in specially marked volunteer vehicles, assisted with documenting and reporting graffiti and abandoned vehicles, patrolled city parks and greenways on bicycles, assisted with events at the new downtown amphitheater, and performed many other assignments."

Legeros - 02/02/11 - 08:08

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preferred)
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Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
Yes
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Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

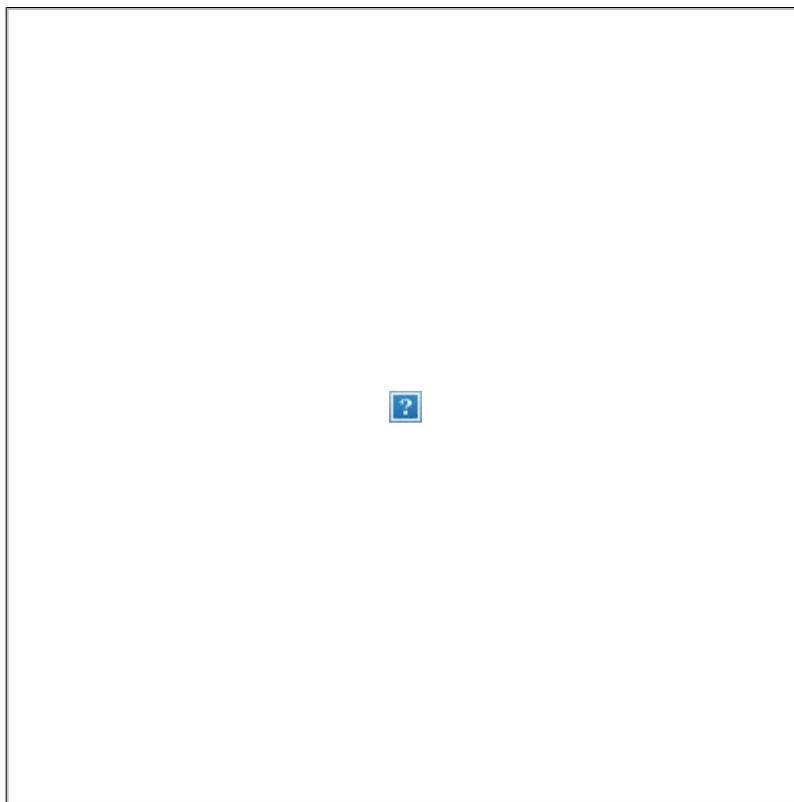
Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

See You in Baltimore

07/14/10 114 W, 1 I - + 10 - 4

Next week is the [Firehouse Expo](#) at the Baltimore Convention Center. Thursday and Friday are planned for exhibit hall wandering. Saturday is a stop at this year's [Family Fun & Flea Market](#). That's a consolidation of some things previously done on both Saturday (model muster club) and Sunday (flea market, antique apparatus). Look for the Hawaiian Shirt Guy also loitering at fire blogger booths. The Geezer Guys, Statter, and others are equally enjoyable in person. Memo to self. Remember to talk in first-person. As for photo reports, planned excursions include a night in Philadelphia and two nights in Washington D.C. We'll see where those urban explorations lead.



Dover, DE Mike!! You'll thank me later, Dover Station #1.

Silver - 07/14/10 - 09:21

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Shoes

07/14/10 49 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

Ladder 2 on Rumson Road at a kitchen fire on Sunday morning, along with Engine 7, Engine 11, and Rescue 1. The composition could be better. The camera should have been pointed a little more down, so the entire shoe is shown. Works for now.



Name: (real name preferred)
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Remember personal info?

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

Wayne County Forest Service Patch

07/16/10 44 W, 1 I - + 8 - 6

From the Department of Interesting and Unusual Patches comes this Forest Service emblem out of Wayne County. Found found for sale on Everyone's Favorite Auction Site, e.g. eBay. Neat design. No idea if current. Click to enlarge:



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

Remember personal info?
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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Touring Historic Firehouses of Philly

07/16/10 168 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

[Here's a neat news article](#) about a historic firehouse tour in Philadelphia that was conducted in a prior September by a historic preservation organization. They visited eight former or current engine houses, and made plans to conduct a second tour and see additional stations. They made stops at:

- [Fireman's Hall Museum](#), 2nd Street, built 1902
- Former [Victorian](#) building, near 4th and Girard
- [Soon-to-be-demolished](#) building, 1328 Race Street
- Abandoned station in [Francisville](#)
- 1950s station in Francisville
- [Jack's Firehouse Restaurant](#), Fairmount Avenue
- Center City's [Brutalist](#) building, 21st and Market streets

Mentioned but not visited, buildings in:

- [Center City](#), Sansom Street
- [Chestnut Hill](#)
- [Frankford](#)
- [Fishtown](#)
- [Mt. Airy](#)

Mr. Blogger is spending a night in Philly next week and presently has no plans in that, um, department. We'll see if the trips ends without any research and compilation of information therein. You know what happens when he visits major cities, like [Baltimore, DC, Richmond, Charleston, St. Louis, Detroit, and Minneapolis](#).



Weekly Press/John Dowlin photo

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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

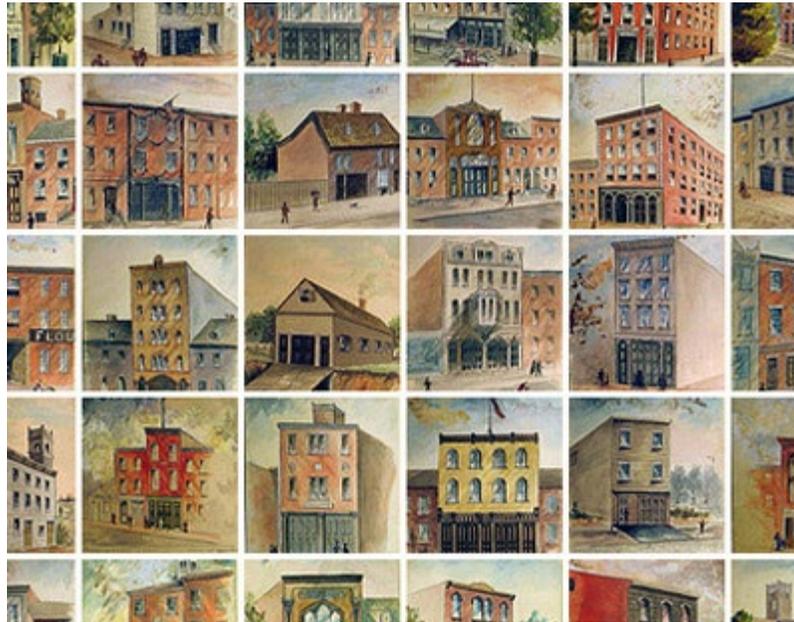
Comment: / [Textile](#)

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.

Philly Firehouses in Watercolor

07/16/10 72 W, 1 I - + 9 - 5

[And here's a collection of watercolor images](#) of Philadelphia firehouses by Granville Perkins. They number 55 and were probably painted around the 1860s. The originals are housed in the Granville Perkins Collection at the Free Library of Philadelphia. [Or view a version on Flickr](#). The latter has the name and address noted for each. Would be easy enough to compile. Must. Resist.



Rolling Closures A Possibility For Fire Department

<http://cbs3.com/local/Philadelphia.Fire...>

Joe Brady ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/16/10 - 07:16

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

Remember personal info?

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No

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See You in Raleigh

07/16/10 216 W, 1 I - + 11 - 4

Speaking of conferences, we're one month away from the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#). That's the fancy name-- or, if you prefer, branded name-- for the annual meeting of both the North Carolina State Firemen's Association and the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs. They've been [convening since the late 1880s](#).



There's another apparatus parade planned this year, and registration opened this week. The parade parades down Fayetteville Street, and is an absolute blast. See the [conference web site](#) for details. Detailed program descriptions have also been posted, including this one with someone we know. And on Friday the Thirteenth, no less. Eek! See you in August.

North Carolina Firefighting History
Mike Legeros
Historian, Raleigh Fire Department
Friday, August 13
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Raleigh Fire Department Historian Mike Legeros returns with his popular overview on the history of firefighting in North Carolina. He combines his ongoing statewide research with vintage photographs, maps, and other materials to tell the story of 300+ years of fire protection in the Old North State. His topics include the first fire departments, early fire apparatus, and the evolution from municipal to community and rural fire departments. Questions and audience participation is encouraged, and attendees can bring their own historical notes and perspectives to share.

Name: (real name preferred)
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Raleigh/Wake Emergency Communications Center History Wanted

07/16/10 294 W, 1 I - + 9 - 2

The [Raleigh/Wake County Emergency Communications Center](#) is compiling their history for their new web page, which debuts August 1. That's when the entire Raleigh web portal gets a new look and feel. They're seeking the following information, and even just leads in that direction:

- How did citizens contact fire, police, emergency medical, and ambulance services before the ECC was formed in 1972?
- How did the initiative of a consolidated communication center come about?
- Who were the players involved?
- Who were the first agencies on board?

For the history of fire dispatching, and particularly the Raleigh Fire Department, [this document provides some details](#) . Coupled with [my other history pages](#), we get:

- 1800s - City bell summons citizens and later volunteer firefighters.
- 1840 - City Market built. City bell later added at location.
- 1870 - Metropolitan Hall built. New city bell installed in clock tower.
- 1880 - Rescue Company connects gong to their telephone, allows fires to be reported to telephone exchange.
- 1888 - First fire alarm box installed.
- 1900s - Fires recorded as reported by telephone.
- 1940s - Fire department has switchboard operators. Maybe even earlier.
- 1955 - Radios installed on all apparatus.
- 1958 - Raleigh FD begins dispatching of select rural departments. County radio system installed.
- 1960 - Fire/police telephones installed on select alarm boxes. Direct line to police switchboard.
- 1971 - City council authorizes telephone fire alarm system to replace box alarms.
- 1972 - Fire dispatching transferred to new Emergency Communications Center.
- 1973 - Last box alarm. System dismantled.
- 1980 - ECC activates 911 as county-wide emergency phone number.
- 1980 - Raleigh FD first responder program expands city wide.
- 1993 - Raleigh FD implements EMT-D program.

What history can you add about fire, police, emergency medical, and ambulance service dispatching?

Post, or send as private mail. Thanks for any input.

Bits from newspaper clippings:

1969 – Project conceived/started, with projected cost of \$505,000.

1969 – Wake County Sheriff's Department installs communication equipment, and cited as one of reasons for not subsequently joining ECC.

1971 – Federal funds obtained to start first phase. Estimated five years and three main phases before in full operation, with computerized dispatching.

1972, March

- ECC begins operation in basement of Raleigh PD headquarters on S. McDowell Street, handling all fire and police calls for Raleigh, Garner,

Cary, and Zebulon.

- System is originally designed to include Wake County Sheriff's Department and all county fire departments. In 1970, County Commissioners decided not to fund their share, and Sheriff and other municipalities subsequently withdraw.
- Radio frequencies include VHF for county fire, VHF for city fire, and UHF and VHF frequencies (2) for Raleigh police.
- Direct telephone "hotlines" to Beacon Ambulance, Wake Memorial Hospital, Wake County Sheriff's Department (pending), and State Highway Patrol (pending).
- 20-channel recorder with two tapes recording all conversations.
- Two Police Information Network (PIN) terminals in use.

1972, March 1 – Raleigh PD adopts new ten codes, in conjunction with new ECC in operation. Change needed as Raleigh, Zebulon, Garner, and Cary all used different numbering systems.

Legeros - 07/16/10 - 19:53

Send private mail if anyone wants to read some of the old articles on this.

Legeros - 07/17/10 - 13:01

From a reader comes one more milestone:

2007 – Emergency phone reporting boxes removed from service due to widespread use of cell phones. Boxes were located in downtown area and on interstate.

Here's what the ECC posted on their new web page, a short history of the center:

<http://raleighnc.gov/safety/content/Emer..>

Legeros - 08/16/10 - 06:42

Above date for ERP boxes corrected to 2007.

Legeros - 08/19/10 - 07:15

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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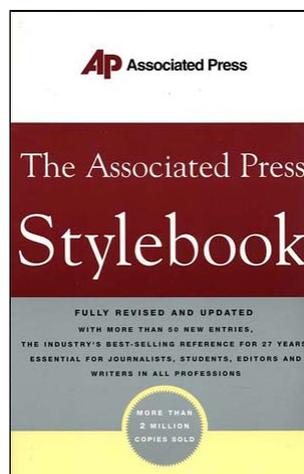
[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

AP Stylebook Grows with New Social Media Guidelines

07/16/10 99 W, 1 I - + 8 - 6

If you are excited by that headline, then consider yourself a bonafide information geek. The news item is [courtesy of The Fire PIO](#), which is a nifty blog about and for public information officers. What's a stylebook, also called style guide or style manual, you ask? [Read all about it.](#)

My copy dates to the early 1992, purchased for a copy-editing class at North Carolina State University, while enrolled in a post-graduate Certificate in Professional Writing program. Graduated, er, completed in 1994. Maybe Mrs. Blogger is reading. Would make a good gift.



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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

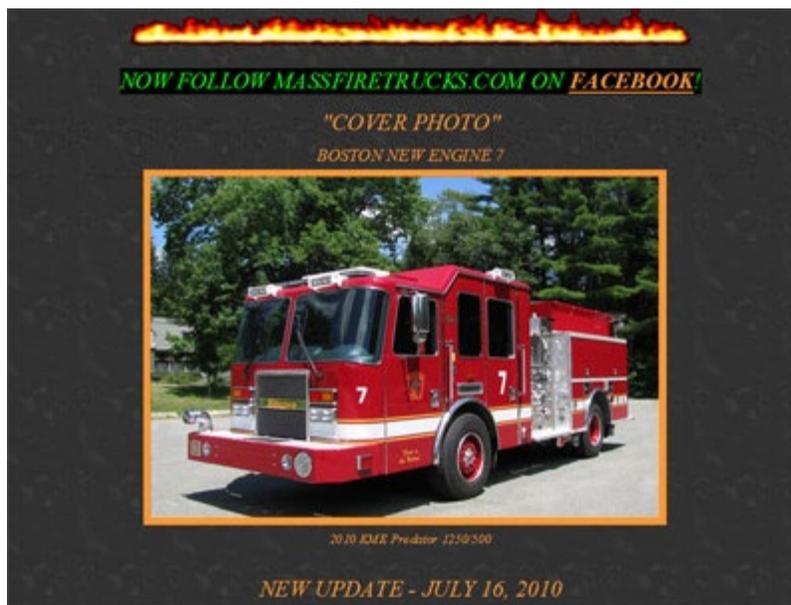
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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

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

For your Friday enjoyment and found on a die-cast discussion board, head over to massfiretrucks.com for pictures of Boston's new KME engines. They've put three in service as Engines 7, 33, and 37. Shown below on the main page is Engine 7, a 2010 KME Predator 1250/500. Looks like they're moving away from Pierce and E-One.



Boston seems to have always liked KME. Their new Rescue is a KME as well

Mike - 07/17/10 - 06:23

I believe that MEB took that photo....owner of the site.

Rob - 07/17/10 - 09:26

Thanks, removed incorrect credit. Also re-purposed posting, to be a better `net citizen and focus on the site itself versus simple hot-linking to an image.

Legeros - 07/17/10 - 10:03

I am a personal fan of the red rims rather than the chrome. Believe all trucks should have em

old - 07/19/10 - 19:28

Personal opinion, but I like them too. Sure, the chrome rims make it look sweet. However, it's a work truck. Put a properly trained crew that gives a damn, the right tools and a truck that mechanically functions and you're good to go.

Silver - 07/20/10 - 00:49

How many thousands of dollars do they save per truck or a year on going with the plain rims instead of the chrome? Probably quite a few. Maybe enough to assist in station renovations, or the purchase of a new TIC or some other piece of equipment that will actually help "the men" out.

Mike - 07/20/10 - 08:45

New Suburban for Eastern Wake EMS

07/17/10 34 W, 1 I - + 8 - 6

[Eastern Wake EMS](#) has placed this 2010 Chevrolet Suburban in service as District 6, replacing an older model. As photographed by Lee Wilson. [See more photos.](#)



Lee Wilson photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

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No

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Dekotora

07/17/10 105 W, 2 I - + 9 - 6

Also for your weekend enjoyment and unrelated to anything we usually write about, here's the [Wikipedia entry for Dekotora](#). Abbreviation for "decorated truck" and as typically found in Japan. Really, really, really loudly decorated trucks, noted for neon or ultraviolet lights, crazy paints, and stainless steel or golden parts.

Photographer Masaru Tatsuki spent some ten years shooting said rigs, and here's a [Tokyo-based magazine article about him and his subject matter](#). He's also published a book about them. [Available through Amazon Japan](#), and only 3,045 yen!

Google Images [finds many more pictures](#) of these fascinating creations.



Wikipedia photo / Masaru Tatsuki photo

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.

Rescuing Cats and Lunatics From Trees, 1920

07/18/10 541 W - + 11 - 2

BESIDES FIGHTING FIRE CITY FIREMEN DO MANY ODD JOBS

Such As Rescuing Cats and Lunatics From Trees

The Raleigh Times, Feb. 24, 1920

When a barrel of molasses was upset at the corner of Wilmington and Martin Streets a few days ago and a boy riding by on a bicycle skidded and fell into the sticky stuff, the RALEIGH firemen were called out to wash the street. That was just one of the many jobs that the city firemen are called on to perform in addition to putting out fires.

The Emergency Hospital both this year and the past year found their neighbors, the firemen across the way, invaluable. The men were ready at all times to give a lift at the hospital or in transporting nurses to and from the hospital.

The regular business of fighting fires, since there are not very many in RALEIGH, has been interspersed with putting up banners and decorations on Fayetteville Street, changing electric light globes on display signs, cleaning the light globes at the Tabernacle Baptist Church, rescuing cats from trees and at times trimming up the trees in the city park.

One evening the past summer there was a telephone call to come in a hurry to Dix Hill. When the firemen with their ladder equipment reached the insane asylum, they found the call was to rescue one of the inmates who had taken refuge in one of the trees on the grounds. While the attendants waited helplessly on the ground, a ladder was run up to the tree and either by force or persuasion the crazy man was induced to come down.

It was to the rescue of her cat that a woman called the firemen out one night several months ago. She came running to the fire station on West Morgan Street all upset over her cat which had climbed into one of the big trees in Capitol Square and appeared to be too frightened to come down. So the firemen hurried across the street and the kitten was soon with many scratches and "meows" safe on the ground again.

At the time of the Baptist State Convention anyone passing the Tabernacle Baptist Church might have thought that there was an all-day fire which the firemen were fighting within the building for almost all day the trucks waited outside while the firemen at the top of long ladders were putting the electric light globes in the ceiling in bright and shining shape for the convention.

The firemen have been called into service frequently to assist in trimming the trees in the city parks, but [Fire] Chief Hubert Horton had to explain just a few days ago, when a woman telephoned to ask the firemen to come out and trim up the trees on her sidewalk, that the firemen are not allowed to do private jobs of tree trimming.

Whether it is washing the snow from the streets inw inter, cooling the pavements in the neighborhood of the fire stations in summer, helping out in the influenza epidemic, rescuing cats or lunatics from trees, or tending a garden of their own at the fire station, the firemen find many things to do beside fight fire.

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Fruit as Chevrons

07/18/10 15 W, 1 I - + 10 - 8

Sooner or later, everything starts to look like an emergency vehicle...



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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Random Reading

07/20/10 293 W - + 6 - 6

Sundry stories and postings from here, there, and everywhere. A couple are even fire service related! And we know [which blogger](#) pioneered their own regular feature of sharing stories from other sites. See you in Baltimore, Bill.

- [New York Times article](#) about a California city that fired all its city employees, and outsourced their jobs. Fire protection isn't mentioned, as they were already covered by the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Interesting municipal action in tough economic times. Great headline, too.
- [CNN special story](#) about news sites and anonymous comments and new approaches for handling. The article talks about registration and moderation methods, as well as the pros and cons of anonymity. You think firefighters can get out of line on forums? Comments on news sites are *crazy*.
- [Guns and hoses](#) from Dave Statter. That's his headline excerpt for a video that's making the rounds, of a tractor-trailer fire in Georgia and the law officers who assist the Public Safety Department firefighter(s) that arrive. The video is interesting, the comments are entertaining, and a \$15 word soon comes to mind. Had to look up the spelling on [Schadenfreude](#). See you in Balt!
- [News & Observer story](#) about railroad memories in the Capitol City. It's the latest in their cover about rail corridor planning, and ideas for faster service from Raleigh to Richmond, and which could entail closing or adapting crossing in the center of the city.
- [Surviving Fire Forums](#) by the Backstep Firefighter. How to keep from being a schmuck when posting on fire site forums, or even blogs. That means Yours Truly! Here's hoping we're not (consistently) looking stupid. Or even high-falutin, what with throwing around German words and Yiddish slang. Good stuff from 'step.

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Uniden Home Patrol

07/20/10 7 W - + 10 - 2

Coming soon. Wow.

If someone had been able to make last nights Tarheelscanner meeting, someone might have been able to see an Home Patrol in person ;-)
Seems someone in the Triangle area is a beta tester for a certain radio company.
If anyone has questions about this revolutionary radio feel free to email me.

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/20/10 - 13:50

Marshall, exactly how many someones are you speaking of, and are you certain?

Legeros - 07/20/10 - 16:31

Mike, check your email.

And yes I am certain. Harkey got a chance to see one in person
at the end of last week. :-)

He seemed to think it was pretty dang cool.

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/20/10 - 19:24

Any idea on the initial price range?

Mike - 07/21/10 - 11:27

Marshall, I'm interested. More so how much it's going to cost, but yeah, I'd like to know more.

duda73@gmail.com

Duda - 07/21/10 - 13:21

As far as pricing, The unit has not yet been FCC type accepted so any discussion of price could get Uniden hit with fines.
If there is enough interest I would be willing to be part of a breakfast/lunch meetup this weekend or I could possibly stop by a local FD station
where a more hands on experience with HP could possibly happen.

A Quick Reference Guide and Owners Manual can be downloaded from a site Uniden has established:

<http://info.uniden.com/HomePatrol>

Please let me know at KE4ZNR@radioreference.com if there is more interest in this upcoming receiver.

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/21/10 - 13:45

You can read 20+ pages of comments, opinions, and speculations on the radio at <http://forums.radioreference.com/uniden-..>

Sounds like the expected price is in the same range as current digital trunking scanners.

Legeros - 07/21/10 - 23:29

It looks like me & a few radios should be stopping by Western Wake FD next Tuesday Night (July 27th) between 6pm and 10pm. Duda should be in attendance and all other interested parties are invited to attend. Stop by and see a bunch of current (and future) radio models that can be tested and played with.

Happy Monitoring!

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/22/10 - 23:19

Just a reminder that I will be meeting Duda up at Western Wake FD tonight between 6pm and 10pm with a bunch of different models of scanners. Stop by and say hello! EMail me if you have any questions.

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/27/10 - 16:33

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

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Raleigh Receives New Tiller

07/21/10 125 W, 1 I - + 12 - 2

Thirty-eight tons of prime Pierce rolled into Raleigh this morning with the delivery just before noon of a 2010 Pierce Arrow XT tractor-drawn tiller, #1500/300/100'. The long-awaited ladder truck is the replacement for the [2004 Pierce Arrow XT tiller](#) that overturned while responding to a call on July 10, 2009. The new truck is about identical to the old one, but with some differences here and there. In appearance, one noticeable change is red roll-up doors this time around. It'll be placed in service in a couple months as Ladder 4 at Station 1. It's also one of only a couple tillers to be found statewide. Lee Wilson took this photo today, [and has posted others](#). Click to enlarge:



Lee Wilson photo

The long wait is over! Awesome ride, enjoy it brothers! Be safe Jason

Jason Lane - 07/21/10 - 23:55

Mike,

Lee's Flickr post list tiller as 1500, 310, 100

"Things different with this tiller – white reflective stripe has the Z, rear chevrons, gold lettering on ladder w/ red background, 2 tillerman's LED centering devices on top of the cab (instead of 1), 2 angled siren speakers underneath the front bumper, red roll-up compartment doors, red light bar on top of cab, ... Its 62.6 long, 11.3 tall, weighs 76,600 lbs, 1500 GPM, 310 gallon tank, 100' ladder. "

stretch - 07/22/10 - 06:13

At 1500gpm does that 10 gallon discrepancy really matter? :)

Paul - 07/22/10 - 08:17

Just curious, how was it delivered? Was it driven from the factory? Or delivered by train, truck, air drop, or beam-me-up-Scotty?

rfburns - 07/22/10 - 09:16

Driven from factory in Wisconsin. One driver, rear steering locked. Truck deliveries are still done, how 'about train? Raleigh's 1958 American LaFrance tiller was delivered on a railroad car, along with other apparatus of that era.

Legeros - 07/22/10 - 09:28

The USS Raleigh is back.
Congrats!

jetexas - 07/22/10 - 10:38

great looking Rig! possibly the best looking ladder truck in the Triangle!

charlie - 07/22/10 - 11:41

Why would it take 2 months to get it in service? Awesome looking rig!!

Robert ([Email](#)) - 07/22/10 - 20:36

training

lee - 07/22/10 - 22:05

Are tryouts going to be held for LTs on this rig?

Curious - 07/22/10 - 22:38

hope this time we can get a full service life out of this rig (> 5 years) and let the taxpayers get there money worth out of it...and I do hope the training is more effective this time!

hopeful - 07/23/10 - 11:52

I'm pretty sure the LT positions have been chosen for a while and are already in place with no changes for now.

Training starts next week on the tiller. It will be a few to several months before it goes in service. I don't know when. Should be safe to say it'll be this Fall.

lee - 07/23/10 - 16:39

when is the tiller going into service. this is november and it still isn't in service yet.

charlie - 11/22/10 - 02:29

I believe training has been completed, and it is going in service today. But watch the blog and we'll document when it happens!

Legeros - 11/22/10 - 08:33

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

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Comment:

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

High Pressure Fire Service

07/22/10 58 W, 1 I - + 7 - 3

Reporting from the road. Close view of Philadelphia's high-pressure water system pumping station building at the east end of Race Street, at the waterfront. Supplied a special water system for firefighting downtown. [Read this historical article via Google Books about such systems](#), including Philly's.



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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

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Fire Pumps

07/22/10 79 W, 2 I - + 8 - 3

Here's another artifact from Philadelphia's firefighting history, this time a former fire pump station at the old [Philadelphia Naval Shipyard](#). The facility dates to 1903, and was operated as a USN shipyard until 1995. The site has been repurposed as a business center, with some Navy activity still on site. The place is also protected by a USN fire department, from a building that dates to the 1910s. Click to enlarge:



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

Remember personal info?

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No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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All Guns Blazing

07/22/10 104 W, 1 I - + 8 - 3

Still reporting from the road. Here's Baltimore's Fireboat 1 flowing water, and as photographed from [Fells Point](#) early this evening. Named John R. Frazier, the 87-foot, steel-hull craft was placed in service three years ago. It was the first major addition to the city's fireboat fleet in 47 years.

With a capacity of 7,000 GPM, the vessel is manned with a crew of five, and is stationed at Fort McHenry. [Read more about the boat](#) at the excellent [Baltimore Fireboats web site](#). See you on the show floor tomorrow, and likely loitering (read: pestering) at the fire bloggers booth. Click to enlarge:



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

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No

Comment:

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Firefighters Brave Triple-Digit Heat

07/23/10 65 W, 1 I - + 6 - 4

[Here's a WRAL story](#) from two days ago, about how Raleigh firefighters stay cool on scene, and through the rehab work of Wake County EMS. There's footage from training on E. Lane Street, and comments from a Battalion Chief and the county Medical Director. Weekend looks even worse. Cue Martha and the Vandellas.



I'm still looking for the "first responders van" (lol!)

A.C. Rich - 07/23/10 - 20:14

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

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 No

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UPDATED - The History of Raleigh's Tillers

09/26/15 141 W, 1 I - + 11 - 8

Tractor-drawn aerial ladders as operated by the Raleigh Fire Department, left to right and top to bottom as shown below:

- 1916 American LaFrance Type 17 (75-foot, spring-raised, wooden, 1916-1939/1958)
- 1939 American LaFrance 500 Series / 1916 American LaFrance (new tractor, 1939-1958)
- 1958 American LaFrance 700 Series (100-foot, metal, 1958-1979/1999)
- 1979 Mack MC / 1958 American LaFrance (new tractor, 1980-1999)
- 1979 Mack MC / 1958 American LaFrance after 1988 refurb, adding jump seat cover, tiller cab, and more.
- 2004 Pierce Arrow XT (100-foot, 1500 GPM, 300 gallons, 2004-2009)
- 2010 Pierce Arrow XT (100-foot, 1500 GPM, 300 gallons, 2010-present)
- 2015 Pierce Arrow XT (delivery, photo pending!)

See this [FireNews historical perspective from 2004](#) for more, as well as this [Raleigh Fire Department Apparatus Register](#). See this collection of [photos of the 2004 Pierce](#). Credits for second and third row of images, left to right: Joel Woods, Jeff Harkey, Mike Legeros, Lee Wilson. Click once or twice to enlarge:



Dispositions of older tillers:

1916 ALF tractor, unknown.

1939 ALF/1916 ALF, privately owned in Harnett County, poor condition due to sitting outside for decades

1958 ALF tractor, presumably scrapped, after sitting outside the training center for years/decades

1979 Mack/1958 ALF, recently seen in South Carolina, formerly owned by Civietown FD in Brunswick County, and also operated post-Raleigh by Wendell FD in Wake County

2004 Pierce, sold to Harnett county scrapyard, if memory serves

Legeros - 07/23/10 - 09:52

1) So, after 84 years of having a tiller, why did the department go 15 years without one? The downtown streets sure didn't get any wider!

2) RFD had the previous tiller for 5 years? (2004-2009) I still thought of it as brand new when it crashed... It didn't seem like it was 5 years old.

rfburns - 07/23/10 - 11:06

it was only a 5 yr period (99-04) when Raleigh didn't have a tiller.

lee - 07/23/10 - 16:08

and then of course from last July until this July – no tiller

lee - 07/23/10 - 16:10

Doh. I think I was reading "1989" instead. Or, I'm just bad at math. Carry that one! :)

rfburns - 07/23/10 - 16:11

@rfburns Perhaps a lack of planning and foresight that tillers would be better versus a demo (ALF mid-mount)?

Planning - 09/28/15 - 08:30

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

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No

Comment:

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Mystery Nozzle #1

07/23/10 25 W, 1 I - + 12 - 7

What is it, who made it, when did they make it, when was it used?



Pretty sure it was a broken stream combination nozzle developed by the Navy...I think that is what I have heard. I have one at the house.

Rhett Fleitz ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/23/10 - 23:31

That is correct it is called a Navy All Purpose nozzle or APN. The fog stream portion can be removed and a four foot applicator inserted. The nozzle has a three position bail Off, Fog and Straight Stream. The straight stream orifice is below the fog insert.

stretch - 07/24/10 - 12:42

I love a Navy nozzle, also still manufactured by Akron. The four foot applicator worked very well on chimney fires.

Doppler - 07/24/10 - 15:29

Very early version of the Navy all purpose fog nozzle, rated at 60 gpm!

Tom Shand ([Email](#)) - 07/26/10 - 15:25

It is probably made by Rockwood.

Gene Fisher ([Email](#)) - 01/04/13 - 22:55

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Mystery Nozzle #2

07/23/10 28 W, 1 I - + 8 - 6

Yes, a fire museum has been toured in recent days. What history can you share for this wicked-looking artifact?



Looks like an old-timey chemical nozzle...

Duda - 07/24/10 - 00:19

old high pressure nozzle used on booster lines!

jason Lane - 07/24/10 - 11:07

looks like a Beam High pressure nozzle, i believe Acron still makes them

Doppler - 07/24/10 - 15:26

Sorry for the Misspell Akron

Doppler - 07/24/10 - 15:29

It is a Hardee booster nozzle. I have one on my truck and am looking for another.

[sleepingdog] - 07/24/10 - 18:09

IIRC, marketed under the model "Blaze Buster".

RWECC - 07/25/10 - 08:11

Looks like the old high pressure booster nozzles. Erwin FD in Harnett County still uses these on 2 engines in place of booster lines.

Joshua Sorrell ([Email](#)) - 07/25/10 - 09:50

Looks to me like a Hardy "Blaze Buster" nozzle that was quite popular on rigs during the late 1950's into the 1960's.

Tom Shand ([Email](#)) - 07/26/10 - 15:23

This nozzle was designed for the US Navy during WW-2, it is called a Hardie Blaze Buster, operating pressure between 600 & 900 psi. It was transformed from an orchard spray nozzle into a fire fighting tool. It was made in Hudson, Michigan and was a normal companion on early American Fire Apparatus units as well as others. I have one of the original first 20 that were made. Both my father and uncle worked at Hardie's, & dad retired from there.

This one is a "Crown Jewel". If you see the current issue of Fire Apparatus Journal, look towards the back, there are some WW2 military trucks

pictures, look carefully at the middle picture & you'll see two of the "Blaze Busters" on this rig.

A/C Harry Burdick ([Email](#)) - 12/28/10 - 16:49

When I was just a puppy in the fire service, our Howe/Chevrolet engine at the time had a pair of these on the booster lines!!
The example pictured brings back soooo many memories!! We burned down a lot of houses attacking with booster line/high pressure!!

Lee Hickman ([Email](#)) - 09/06/18 - 11:32

Name: (real name
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Web Site: (optional)

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Burning Down New York City in the 1970s

07/24/10 212 W - + 8 - 4

The Fires: How a Computer Formula, Big Ideas, and the Best of Intentions Burned Down New York City-and Determined the Future of Cities is the long title of a recent non-fiction hardcover by journalist Joe Flood, and as mentioned by Dr. Harry Carter in [his latest Firehouse.com column](#).

There's a review and author Q&A on the [Amazon product page](#). The author spent years researching the "facts and implications of the epidemic of fires that swept through New York City in the 1970s." Areas of the Bronx were devastated, with 97% of all buildings destroyed in six census tracts.

That period is known as the famous FDNY "war years" and which are described in this [Google-found letter to the editor](#) from a former Bronx dispatcher. He places the period between the night that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968, and the "second blackout" of 1977.

Sounds like a fascinating slice of history, both from the perspective of the firefighters on the ground, and the best-but-failed intentions of the department and city administrators driving the real world outcomes. As Carter notes in his column, it's a very relevant topic for today. Ordered my copy!

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

Stop / Steadman / Special Operations

07/24/10 99 W, 1 I - + 8 - 2

That mystery apparatus is Rescue 1 at the Steadman Station on South Eutaw Street, and around the corner from the Baltimore Convention Center. Wonder how many visitors they'll get this week? Or, heck, how many t-shirts they'll sell??

The station's also home to Special Operations. Check out their newer collapse unit as [photographed by Hungrybus](#), a 2008 Freightliner M2/Morgan with powered lifts on the side, and in the rear. It replaced a 1984 International box truck. See more of HB's photos of [BFD specialty units](#).



Mikey, did they let you past the doors to the living area?

Silver - 07/26/10 - 11:07

Didn't try. Maybe next year!

Legeros - 07/27/10 - 07:26

Jeff, do they let people into their living areas? I know that Chicago stations typically won't allow it.

Mike - 07/27/10 - 09:32

I don't think so...

Silver - 07/27/10 - 14:02

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

New Suburban For District 3

07/24/10 27 W, 1 I - + 6 - 6

But where are the Battenburg markings? Not in service yet. Photographed by Lee. [See a few more pictures.](#)



Lee Wilson photo

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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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BLS Back-Ups in Johnston County

07/24/10 75 W - + 9 - 3

The *Garner Citizen* finds an interesting [Garner-Clayton Record story](#) about basic life-support (BLS) transport in Johnston County. Service for same is provided through exclusive contract by the county to Johnston Ambulance Services. Last week, County Commissioners approved a change that allows other companies to apply as back-up for BLS services through JAS. Garner Medical Transport, Samartian Ambulance Service (Wendell), and North State Medical Transport have applied. [Read the story.](#)

backup for JAS is not a bad idea, especially after they had a fire and explosion on one of their ambulances last weekend out in the walmart parking lot on 42 in johnston county. thankfully the patient they were transporting and the two paramedics were able to evacuate the ambulance safely.

charlie - 07/25/10 - 07:47

It's About Time!

FFMedic - 07/26/10 - 20:42

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Bull Happens

07/25/10 97 W - + 10 - 4

[WRAL reports this morning](#) that drivers on I-40 in Johnson County reported seeing a bull in traffic. No accidents were reported, as vehicles were able to steer clear. Perhaps they used their horns. Unknown if the animal saw red. The Highway Patrol assisted a local farmer in leashing the lingering longhorn. Meanwhile, a distant blogger battered readers with beastly puns. His reputation for comedy is always at steak. Hopefully his stock isn't falling. Let him know if you have a beef. Thank you, and don't forget to tip your server on the way out.

Wondering where this "Johnson County" is located. I am gonna assume it is somewhere near Johnston County? ;-)

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/25/10 - 23:09

Someone has WAY too much vacation time on his hands to be able to think up those puns!

Mrs. Blogger - 07/26/10 - 12:12

No bull about it, that area doesnt see very lean traffic conditions. I bet that was a grade A traffic problem.

Bessie - 07/26/10 - 14:06

Would this be a mooooving violation?

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/26/10 - 14:10

Indeed, this event could have resulted an "cattle-clysmic" accident of "udderly" devastating proportions.

A.C. Rich - 07/27/10 - 13:38

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

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Historic Fire Station Facade

07/26/10 180 W, 1 I - + 14 - 3

This building on New Hampshire Avenue NW in Washington, D.C., is a "chiller plant." for the subway system. Below is the text that appears on a plaque on the front of the facade. Read more about [historic DCFD houses](#).

The Former Engine Company 24 of the District of Columbia Fire Department

The facade of the original house for Engine Company 24 was located at 3702 Georgia Avenue NW, just north of this site. Built in 1911, the firehouse was designed by Luther Leisenring and Charles Gregg. It originally housed horses and horse-drawn equipment. Within one year of its opening, it became the first station in the city to be fully motorized. Engine Company 24 relocated to a new facility in July 1994. The facade of the original building was relocated and integrated into the chiller plant for the Georgia Avenue-Patworth Metrorail station in December 1995 by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

The Government of the District of Columbia

Mayor Marion Barry Jr.

In cooperation with the D.C. Preservation League



That's absolutely cool (pun intended) and a great way to recycle AND save heritage!

Duda - 07/27/10 - 11:20

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - *Two Firefighters Killed*« Historic Fire Station... » Stolen Helmet Sought in Apparatus Accident, Rocky Mount, VA

Two Firefighters Killed in Apparatus Accident, Rocky Mount, VA

07/26/10 114 W, 1 I - + 10 - 4

The Roanoke Times has posted information about a fatal apparatus accident this afternoon in Rocky Mount, VA. Two firefighters-- Fire Chief Posy Dillon and Firefighter William Daniel "Danny" Altice-- were killed when their pumper overturned after being struck by a sport utility vehicle at the intersection of Old Franklin Road and School Board Road. The apparatus was responding to a house fire, when it was struck. It flipped at least three times, and landed on a passenger vehicle. Two civilians were also injured. The two firefighters were the only ones aboard the apparatus. [Read the entire story.](#)



Jared Soares, Roanoke Times photo

See VAFireNews for more coverage, <http://www.vafirenews.com/>

Legeros - 07/26/10 - 21:20

A fire truck gets hit by an SUV and flips 3 times? Something about that doesn't make sense to me

Paul - 07/27/10 - 09:22

The current news about this is that neither firefighter were wearing their seat belts and were both ejected. Guys put your seat belt on! I know that it is tough if trying to get dressed, so get dressed and then put it on. But there is no reason for the driver of any apparatus to not have on your seat belt

Mike - 07/27/10 - 09:30

A true tragedy. Remember... seatbelts are actually a secondary or supplemental effort to protect us. The impetus for the accident or "negligent act" should be our focus. Although we cannot control the actions of other drivers, we CAN reduce OUR occurrences by slowing down, clearing intersections properly, and driving accordingly. For the fallen, rest in peace. Prayers to their families in this tragic event.

A.C. Rich - 07/27/10 - 13:32

Two brothers in Bridgeport, CT perished at a job as well yesterday. Stories are a little sketchy, but seems they were opening up, checking for extension and then the sh#t hit the fan. Open up early/often guys, we've become too worried about destroying evidence for our investigator friends. While it's important to maintain the scene integrity the best we can, we still have to put the fire out first. DROP THOSE CEILINGS!!

WEAR YOUR DAMN SEATBELTS GUYS!!!! Enough with stacking your gear in the rig when you come on duty. Set it up outside the rig, put it on before loading up, arm in the strap of the SCBA of same shoulder your seatbelt is on, then fasten that thing!! You can don the opposite shoulder strap with your seatbelt ON!!!

Practice, practice, practice....it will become second nature. How many more have to go before we'll get it through our thick heads?

RIP Brothers...

Silver - 07/27/10 - 14:15

I wish gearing up before boarding the rig was an option where I work. Seatbelts are mandatory, but taking the time to gear up before boarding the rig increases response times, and our turnout/response times are heavily criticized by the command staff, which leads to gearing up while enroute w/o a seatbelt; we are also expected to right to work upon arrival, so gearing up once we get there isn't an option.

Our command staff will burn people for not being belted in, but will turn around and burn you for increased response times because you geared up prior to responding. Companies are so closely spaced in most of the city that it leads to getting beat in your still area because the

other company hit the road and geared up enroute while you at sitting in the house putting your pants/coat on. Donning an SCBA with a seatbelt on is no issue, but trying to don my pants & coat is nearly impossible. Unfortunately, it will take someone getting seriously hurt or killed to change this mentality.

Rides An Engine - 07/27/10 - 16:30

It is amazing how we can see what can prevent injuries and fatalities- buckling up and gearing up before you get on that truck. But like RAE points out, some chiefs (and other officers) don't get it (rectalvision is sort of limited!). It is a shame in 2010 that I can go around in Wake County, or in just about any other jurisdiction you choose, and see firefighters standing up in the cab of the apparatus gearing up, while that same apparatus is careening (yes- CAREENING!) down the road just as fast as that engineer can make it go. You guys don't have to ride the back or side step anymore and for the most part, your trucks are designed with safety in mind. Take advantage of the safety features. They're for YOUR safety.

LISTEN TO SILVER, PEOPLE! WEAR YOUR F***ING SEAT BELTS! I don't know what happened in Virginia so I will hold off. It will be in a NIOSH report soon enough. But based on what I see just about everyday, it is probably only a matter of time until one of our departments around these parts is the subject of a NIOSH report.

BUCKLE UP! It's gonna hurt your for a second, but your family from then on, when that fire truck lands on your a**!

SLOW DOWN! It ain't your fault the world is combustible. It will be there when you get there.

SLOW DOWN AND CLEAR THE INTERSECTION BEFORE YOU GO THROUGH IT! And be paying attention even if you have the green light. Soccer mom in the minivan may be too busy on the phone to pay attention to you.

DJ - 07/27/10 - 17:25

Rides An Engine, what happens to the firefighter that takes a stand, and gears up before getting on the rig? B&I busting at the company level? Lower performance ratings and reviews from your officer? Actual disciplinary action?

Sounds like a nifty grass-roots safety campaign, though perhaps considered treasonous by those that want to be the fastest and the first arriving.

And that's the path to aggressive driving...

Legeros - 07/27/10 - 17:40

Donning before responding will get you: All that Mike listed, left at the station, \$\$ chewing from the Captain for taking so long, story passed around to other stations and bills busted by them. Depending on how big of a stand you take, and the command staff gets wind of it or gets involved can get you denied future promotions (black balled)and further @\$\$ chewing i.e.: good for wearing your seatbelt, bad for delaying the company's response.

For being a large, municipal department, we still operate very much on the "Good Old Boy System" or cliques, as well as politics that rival the most dysfunctional volunteer FD.

Rides An Engine - 07/27/10 - 18:14

Lest we forget, wearing your seatbelt does not prevent an act of negligence from occurring (aka what we call an "accident"). You've got to drive accordingly. I am glad I am in a position of control at RFD Station #8A and have a great staff that believes in the precepts of common sense. We dress first, regardless. Yep, it's just that simple! Operators of emergency apparatus should always engage their brains before engaging the transmission.

A.C. Rich - 07/28/10 - 01:31

"Operators of emergency apparatus should always engage their brains before engaging the transmission."

I like that. Permission to quote on the blog, AC...

DJ - 07/28/10 - 17:02

@Mike RE: "fastest and first arriving." That is the main problem on why seat belts don't get worn en route to fire calls. You have to get on the truck ASAP which requires getting dressed en route just so you don't have to hear "We beat you in!". I chuckle to myself in disapproval when I hear somebody spout that statement. In fact, I still can't believe a local fire dept. still has the phrase "We beat you again now lay us a line." on

the back of their shirt! What does that promote?

RescueRanger - 07/28/10 - 19:48

That promotes that they want to be like Kentland and can't come up with their own slogan

Mike - 07/28/10 - 22:56

@Mike...Exactly!

@RescueRanger...I think it's a good idea to set up our regular structural responses like the hi-rise response. If you're dispatched third, you're RIT. Dispatched second, laying in. Unless extreme circumstances (train crossing, etc.), this, I think, would help slow EVERYONE down from "racing to the tip".

Silver - 07/28/10 - 23:21

Silver (or Wayne if your reading), correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't DCFD set up like that? The first due company's area gets the first due assignment even if the second due arrives first (in the same block, or arriving at a turn at the same time, not where the arrival difference is a few minutes).

Rides An Engine - 07/28/10 - 23:46

Not sure, but I know our hi-rise procedure is set-up this way. You want to reduce the "we gotta beat 'em" mindset, put this in place.

Silver - 07/29/10 - 01:00

Sure DJ... we are all in this together!!

A.C. Rich - 07/29/10 - 09:57

Thanks, AC. Got a question. Email me.

DJ (Email) - 07/29/10 - 21:25

My two cents worth-an incredible tragedy that needn't have occurred! Seatbelts-Seatbelts to pile on some more!! AS for our responses and assigned roles: It is impractical to limit each unit to perform only the role designated by response order. AS we all know CAD is not infallible, and is prone to mistakes with respect to response area and times. Companies are not static in location, and different areas and even the time of day may have major impact on the order of arrival. Dumbing down the response process and eliminating company level decision making is not the proper response. A cultural change communicated very clearly and personally from C-1 to every member of the department-and especially the staff positions above us giving complete buy-in - while time consuming is a more reasonable and appropriate approach. I stress the command staff buy in because there seems to be continuing disconnect in that area between the big Chief and the station level-something we are all familiar with. Propagate the message and expect the officers to enforce it-properly! But please get away from the attitude of one size fits all or dumbing down our job processes. (i.e. responses and actions) My 2 cents!

Goose - 07/30/10 - 12:31

Ok brothers i will be short on this, Seat belt saved my life! If you are not wearing your seatbelt and you die in a wreck, you are negligent! With that said your family loses it's chance of receiving some of the big death benefit money like the fed which is over 300k. So go ahead and worry about the ribbing from others and the bull crap from the white hats.This mind set is stupid! we are here to do the right thing for our citizens, but we choose not to do the right thing by our family! MY family comes first! FTM-PTB GEEZZZZZZZZZZZZ! So go ahead and risk it! Please buckle up and drive smart! To the drivers out there YOUR job is to get your crew to the call and back to the station safe!

Jason Lane - 07/30/10 - 23:28

From 1998 to 2009 62 firefighters have died in the line of duty in our great state! Out of those 18 have been MVA or MVC, out of those only 1 had their seat belt on! Majority of the others were ejected. It only takes about 20 to 40 seconds to get your pants and coat on and get in the rig and buckle up! It takes that long for the bay door to close!

Jason Lane - 07/30/10 - 23:53

You're my hero Jason!! Everyone... pass the word... We should always "do the right thing" (DTRT). So our new mantra is "FTM-PTB-DTRT". A chief or any other officer who complains about your time spent to be safe is NOT worthy and is categorically a "MUTT." Let's all do our part to change our culture!!!

A.C. Rich - 07/31/10 - 10:41

Why does it take people so long to get dressed before boarding a truck? Is it because we aren't practicing the basics, of doing gear drills every so often? How long does it take to maybe do one gear drill a day, every day we're at work? If you do one a day that averages out to be about

121 gear drills a year. It also keeps you familiar with your PPE. That stuff shouldn't have been left back at the academy. 120 seconds is the state standard for gear drills correct? I know personally I can have all of my gear on and breathing air in about 90. So let's take the air pack out of the question, we can logically take about 30 seconds off of that. Now we're down to roughly 60 seconds to done your gear, and that's everything from your boots to your helmet. But we don't wear our helmets in the rig and we normally don't put on our gloves till we get to the call or when we actually need them. So we can again logically take of roughly 15 more seconds. So now we are down to 45 seconds. Is 45 seconds to long to make the rig wait? I personally don't think so. And if I get left or heckled because I made the rig wait, I'll heckle them right back for putting my safety in jeopardy. When you're in your own car its fine if you don't want to wear your seatbelt, but when you put your tail on a department apparatus you better be buckled up. Remember it's not a recommendation; it's the law to wear a seatbelt. Our brothers in blue just look the other way when they see us not wearing it. Some say that is professional courtesy, I say we shouldn't expect that kind of professional courtesy when not wearing a seatbelt. If you're a company officer and you're letting your guys get away without wearing a seatbelt then shame on you. Do your job, remember this service is a family, and sometimes families get mad at each other. The company officer is the lead role model (fatherly figure) on the truck. I remember getting mad when my dad told me to do things but oh well I did them anyways because he told me too. I personally would rather have a mad to the tee firefighter at me because I made them wear their seatbelt than a dead firefighter, wouldn't you?

Adam Brown - 07/31/10 - 10:43

@ RAE- Yeah DCFD dispatchers announce the assignments while units are responding to calls. There are several reasons for it, but the main one is safety and accountability for apparatus and personnel.

J. Lane, Chief Rich, and Adam-

100% agree with you all. Lane and Rich, like you both I am a company officer and take the safety of myself and my crew very seriously. We have gotten it pretty much down pat...get in our pants, put our coats/hoods on while walking out the bay/closing the bay door. 30 secs tops. Like Adam said, it takes remembering the basics and training on them. My \$.02 worth...too much time and effort is spent on "training" on "advanced" skills, that many people forget the basic skills. It's the basic skills that are going to give us the best chance to stay alive when we roll out there. It's great to master the skills that will get you out of trouble, should you get into it, but what about mastering the basic skills (air management, situational awareness, ensuring your PPE is on correctly, proper searches, stretching handlines, fire behavior, fire attack, ventilation) that will more than likely keep you from getting in trouble in the first place. Again, do it for your families and your crew's families.

Stay safe out there folks

Wayne - 08/01/10 - 17:08

I am in an interesting paradigm – Chief and Captain. Regardless, we are all the same. Leadership knows NO RANK. "DTRT"

A.C. Rich - 08/01/10 - 19:06

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

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Comment:

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Stolen Helmet Sought

07/27/10 62 W - + 8 - 7

A brother to the south has asked for help. Their helmet was recently stolen out of their locker. An older-style Cairnes New Yorker. Black. And of significant sentimental value. Might have surfaced in the Triangle area. Ring any bells for anyone? Same has distinguishing marks. [Mail Mike](#) for more information. Thanks for any help. Shame to the parties responsible.

Thanks Mike for all your work, and thanks to everyone reading.

Ryan - 07/27/10 - 22:48

Sounds like someones' hands need to be "tuned up"....never ceases to amaze me.

Silver - 07/27/10 - 23:36

Agreed. We should be able to leave our wallets out and not have to worry about it. But, apparently times have changed.

Jake T. - 07/28/10 - 02:29

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Hay Lofts

07/27/10 31 W, 1 I - + 9 - 4

Sure sign that a fire station was once home to horses. Left is a former firehouse in Philly, right is an active station in DC. Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)
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Mystery Station

07/28/10 23 W, 1 I - + 6 - 5

As recently photographed in northern North Carolina. Closed as fire station fairly recently. Now serves as activity center for church.



This is the old Bearpond FD in Vance Co.

[WRFD] - 07/29/10 - 08:13

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Mystery Vehicle

07/28/10 31 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

Seen somewhere outside North Carolina in the past week, during Mr. Blogger's recent roamings. Believe the thing is a very dark green, versus what almost looks like black.



DNREC Emergency Response Team (Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Enviromental Resources)

Duck R3 - 07/28/10 - 21:31

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Money and Oversight in Southern Shores

07/29/10 171 W - + 8 - 9

For today's exercise in media studies, [let's look at this Firegeezer story](#) about a situation in Southern Shores on the Outer Banks. The small town is protected by a town-contracted, private-run fire department. As 'geezer summarizes, residents are alarmed by a recent 40% increase in taxes, all of which were directed to the fire department. Then the taxpayers really had a cow, when they learned that the "volunteer" fire chief was earning a considerable salary.

The issues were investigated by WTKR-TV in Norfolk, and over three months. This [lengthy video report](#) covers quite a bit of territory, and includes footage of a heated town council meeting, and even a confrontation between the reporter and the Fire Chief. The video story also has 20 user comments, so far.

For discussion as desired, how fair and balanced is the WTKR-TV story? Both to lay readers and those who ride the red trucks?

Read the [Firegeezer story](#).

Watch the [WTKR-TV report](#).

Visit the [Southern Shores Fire Department](#).

Positive perception and transparency of operations are golden ideals when you are spending the taxpayers money – even if you're under contract with a governmental entity. I wonder what their contract with the city looked like?

A.C. Rich - 07/29/10 - 10:08

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Spicy Summer Cool Down, Saturday, July 31

07/29/10 104 W, 2 I - + 12 - 4

Chik-Fil-A of the Greater Triangle Area is sponsoring a promotional and educational event on Saturday, July 31, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., in the Jim Graham Building at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds. They're giving away 10,000 spicy chicken sandwiches, and will have other free edibles, as well as numerous family-friendly activities.

Numerous pieces of fire apparatus will be on display, along with a fire safety house. There will be fire clowns performing, and fire safety materials on hand. Best of all, the thing is *indoors*. Cool down, indeed! [Read this flyer](#)  or click below for more information:



See you there!

Duda - 07/29/10 - 09:40

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Hands and Gloves

07/29/10 72 W, 1 I - + 9 - 5

Photography tip that someone once told me: take pictures of people's hands and the things they're holding. Below is a member of the Raleigh Fire Department Honor Guard, getting ready at last night's promotional ceremony at City Council Chambers. Needs a little work on the lighting and color, but it's one of a couple dozen [preliminary photos posted](#). Congratulations to the honored.



Man I wished I knew there was a ceremony. It would have been nice to gather up the Engine 4/ Ladder 1 troops and celebrate Captain Roof's (E-4 "C") promotion, as well as my other Brothers that "got made". Congrats to all of you guys and good luck.

Silver - 07/29/10 - 22:17

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

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No

Comment:

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Wake County Firefighters Association Meeting, Tuesday, August 10

07/29/10 170 W, 2 I - + 7 - 6

Lee Price, the President of the Wake County Firefighters Association, passes along an invitation to all firefighters in the county-- both members and non-members-- to attend the August meeting, which will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 10, at the Raleigh Civic and Convention Center in Ballroom A. That's the day before the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#) starts.

They'll have a short business meeting, and then turn the floor over to Dave Dodson, who will present an abbreviated version of his acclaimed program [The Art of Reading Smoke](#). After the meeting, many will retire to Napper Tandys for snacks and socializing.

The [Wake County Firefighters Association](#) will again have a booth at the show, this year located behind Anchor Richey and behind Southeastern Specialty Vehicles. Dodson presents the full version of his program for show attendees on Wednesday, August 11. Then two days later, Mr. Blogger presents his History of North Carolina Firefighting program on August 13. See everyone there!



Name: (real name preferred)
E-mail: (optional)
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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

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Yesterday's Apparatus Accident in Duplin County

07/30/10 61 W - + 7 - 7

Wallace-Warsaw Fire Department Engine 4 was reportedly involved in a motor-vehicle accident yesterday afternoon, when a passenger vehicle collided with the apparatus on scene at another vehicle accident in Interstate 40 at Mile Marker 354364. One firefighter reportedly received minor injuries, and the apparatus sustained heavy damage. No news outlet coverage yet found. We await more details.

It was Warsaw FD Engine 4 and the wreck occurred at the 364 MM, Warsaw and Faison FD's were dispatched to a MVA at approx. 16-21 yesterday, Warsaw E4 arrived and before they could even pull the parking brake a Dodge Durango had struck the rear passenger side of the vehicle causing major damage to the rear and passenger side of the fire truck. 1 patient was pinned in the vehicle that struck the truck and 1 FF possibly broke his arm. The incident occurred during a heavy rainstorm that had also produced a tornado in the area. This is the same mile marker where a DOT worker was killed 2 months ago where a tractor trailer struck and killed him.

car3550 - 07/30/10 - 08:50

FireNews has posted a story, with images: <http://firenews.net/index.php/news/news...>

Legeros - 07/30/10 - 21:48

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Snake Bite Love

07/30/10 105 W, 1 I - + 10 - 5

North Carolina is number one nationally for copperhead bites, reports today's *News & Observer*. Total of 228 last year. More than 20 percent in Wake County, which led with the bleed. Fangs found most people in urban counties, and typically strikes while victims are doing ordinary chores. Beware those barefoot, or with flip-flops, or Mr. Blogger's perpetual summer sandals. 'Taint typically fatal, but a bite can lead to loss of limb. Can also mean many moons of rehab. [Read the entire cold-blooded story](#). Alas, not as many snake puns present themselves this morning. Shake, rattle, and roll.



Ethan Hyman/News & Observer photo

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Flash

07/30/10 35 W, 1 I - + 10 - 4

Traffic camera takes a picture on New Bern Avenue, westbound at the Beltline bridge. Motor-vehicle accident, overturned, injury. That's Engine 11 in the background. Talk about scene lighting!



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.

Mystery Fire

07/31/10 20 W, 1 I - + 8 - 10

Blast from the past. Recognize this one? Couple hints. Residential. Commercial.



Was it the 3 alarm paint warehouse downtown in Sept 2008 that made the big picture of last years southeastern fire expo

At Coverage - 07/31/10 - 16:13

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

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Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - *House Fire on Garner Road, « Mystery Fire » New City of Raleigh W...
Historic Homes in Raleigh*

House Fire on Garner Road, Historic Homes in Raleigh

08/01/10 204 W, 1 I - + 8 - 8

[Lee Wilson has posted photos](#) from last night's working fire at 1109 Garner Road. Engine 133 arriving at a one-story, wood-frame house, with 1,054 square-feet. Built in 1915, with tax records listing remodeling and additions in 1950 and 1982. Heavy fire in the rear of the structure, which spread through the house. Reported subjects possibly still inside, though all were out safely, and with no injuries. Dispatched 8:24 p.m. and controlled at 9:05 p.m. One extra engine special called. [See Lee's photos](#) for additional details, and a list of units.

The building is one of Raleigh's many historic homes, which number in the dozens? The hundreds? Wonder how such data could be determined. Searching [Wake County Real Estate Data](#) seems the first step, but their search interface does not include queries for the year built. They could probably run a custom search, and perhaps have done such reports for the fire department or inspections department.

Don't see such a thing on [IMAPS](#), either. New interface, however. When did that happen? Google searches such as "Raleigh historic homes" and "historic properties Raleigh" might find some odd data squirreled away somewhere. Somebody probably knows.



Lee Wilson photo

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - New City of Raleigh « House Fire on Garner ... » Slowing or Stopping? Web Site

New City of Raleigh Web Site

08/01/10 73 W, 1 I - + 13 - 6

The [city of Raleigh](#) has a new web site, which they placed in production today, August 1. Or as they name same, a new web portal. Give it a test drive. Acquaint yourself with new click paths. Can't advise if everything's working, however, or if bugs are still being ironed out. And presumably click **Contact** at the bottom of the site to provide feedback. Click to access:



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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Slowing or Stopping?

08/01/10 137 W - + 9 - 7

Continuing our recent discussions on apparatus safety, here's a Sunday morning topic for your consideration¹. When responding to structure fires², and upon approaching stop signs or stop signals, do you slow and proceed? Nearly stop and proceed? Completely stop and proceed? Feel free to cite SOPs and what *you* do/don't do.

If based on case, identify the factors. e.g., number of lanes, amount of traffic, sight lines, visibility, weather, etc. Ditto if there are variations to the call type. Smoke seen in distance. Heavy smoke seen in distance. Multiple calls reported by dispatcher. etc.

¹Meta-discussion also permitted. How successfully can such a topic be discussed in public/targeted forums?

²Talking structure fires, as that's perhaps the highest excitement/adrenaline-causing call type, and thus perhaps the most likely to challenge judgment.

-
1. STOP at stop signals/ signs and try and make eye contact with the other drivers, no matter the type of call.
 2. Don't care what the SOP/SOG, policies, and NCGS say- my safety is paramount.

'Based on case'? It should never matter. No matter the case, you cannot get into the mind of a teenage driver or soccer mom in the other vehicle. You **HAVE** to be prepared for what they are going to do, and the only way to be prepared for that is to stop at a stop sign or stop light.

"²Talking structure fires, as that's perhaps the highest excitement/adrenaline-causing call type, and thus perhaps the most likely to challenge judgment."

Really? Based upon what I have seen it matters not. All it takes is engagement of red/blue lights and sirens. I can be driving 45 in a 35 on the way to a sick call, chest pain, MVC, vehicle fire, house fire, etc. and if you are 'walking away' from me, you're driving too fast.

Trust me, they'll be there when you get there.

DJ ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 08/01/10 - 13:20

I'll be honest. It depends on the intersection, traffic and unfortunately the call type. If I am approaching the intersection and it is red I always let off the pedal. Depending on what the other cars are doing or appear to be doing determines my next action. If they aren't stopped for me, or act like they even see me then I definitely come to a complete stop. If they are acknowledging me I may go ahead and hammer down again if I have a clear view of the playing field, or I may do the ol' California roll through the stop light. In a neighborhood if no cars are around I almost always check up and roll through stop signs. I am more cautious in neighborhoods because of the unseen kid that may run out.

When discussing call type, there are calls where I will hammer down more or take more chances in traffic than for others. It isn't an adrenaline thing as much as an urgency to get there. I think as you drive more you become more skilled but also more lazy about stuff at the same time. As I tell new drivers or fill in drivers. I can't make them drive faster or encourage them to drive out of their comfort zone. I just have to deal with it, the only thing I can do when riding the seat is tell them to slow down if I think they are driving too fast or carelessly.

Mike - 08/01/10 - 18:41

Stop. Drive accordingly and appropriately. There is no alternative. Enough said. "DTRT"

A.C. Rich - 08/01/10 - 19:08

Perspective from a smaller, less visible vehicle if you may...

I think that all emergency drivers should practice what I like to call "assertive driving". Sort of a mix of defensive yet aggressive in nature. The basics should always be taught and practiced such as coming to complete stops at locations where you do not have the right of way based on the traffic engineering (i.e. red lights, stop signs, intersections, etc.)

However, there will be circumstances you do not need to stop at a stop sign or red light if it is completely obvious that there are no interferences such as having zero traffic on the road or very, very long sight lines where you can clear an intersection before getting to it (but still slowing down and being ready so stop).

I think in general that fire trucks and ambulances can get away with more due to having more lights, louder sirens (double?) and real air horns. Plus being a giant box with a standout pattern or being immediately recognized as an emergency vehicle helps. People notice fire trucks and ambulances a lot quicker than a police car.

For me, I can vary an emergency response quite a bit being that I am in a smaller, more maneuverable car than say a fire truck. Generally, a fire truck doing an emergency response can't really "step it up" more than what they are already doing...generally. But I can be in a "standard" emergency run to a call and if that call changes (say from a possible bank robbery upgraded to an officer involved in a shootout with the suspects) I can definitely step it up quite a few gears.

But, it all boils down to common sense. If you can obviously clear your intersections before arriving to it (being ready to still stop) then there is no need to literally stop. If you can't, then use that think between your ears and clear that intersection.

RPD - 08/01/10 - 20:40

One should ALWAYS follow traffic laws and departmental S.O.G./regulations. Having said that, we all know that doesn't happen, even with the most seasoned driver. Having driven different types of apparatus and having been a police officer and driven "10-39" more times than I can count in both positions (LE and FF), I can say that situational and positional awareness is paramount. You have to know where you are, what time of day it is, and what else is around you at all times. The type of call really does make a difference in your adrenaline pump but we all need to remember that we do no good if we don't get there. Law enforcement has an advantage in the size and maneuverability of their vehicles, but they lack the size and, frequently, the lighting and markings to ID them to other drivers. Large fire and EMS apparatus have the advantage of size for sheer "bullying". The problem is, you just never know what's going to "come out of nowhere", even if you have long sight lines. Personally, when I actually get to drive and I'm in response mode, I actually check up at green lights and larger intersections because, even though I have the right-of-way by traffic control devices, you never know what soccer mom, distraught lover, or suicidal maniac is going to come barreling into the area. We've all seen examples where our warning devices do absolutely no good. People either don't know, don't care, or are shielded by their vehicle's construction or interior distractions (radio, child, phone, nav, etc.) that even when you're 10 feet off their bumper with dual 100 watt sirens, air horns, and a fully-wound "Q", they are oblivious to your presence.

Point is, to me, drive defensively and with "due regard" for the folks around you, but even more so for the ones in your cab with you. If you crash a QRV, Chief's Buggy, or LE vehicle, it may not do a lot of damage. If you crash a fire engine, EMS truck, etc., it can become exponentially worse.

Just my opinions.

Duda - 08/02/10 - 08:55

Like Duda said, I think one of the more important and often overlooked aspects of safe emergent driving is being prepared to stop when you have the green light. You listed a bunch of good reasons to do it, but another common one is someone making a right on a red light into the direction the truck is going. They will pull up to the intersection, see no one is moving across them (because they stopped for emergency vehicles) and then pull out and turn. Even worse when they swing it wide into the far lane.

Joey - 08/02/10 - 10:20

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Very Expensive Model

08/01/10 186 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

For detailed scale replicas of fire apparatus, we're all familiar with [Code 3 Collectibles](#), and other such die-cast models of a lower price range. Then climb toward the \$200 and \$300 range, and you get into more precision replicas, like [Franklin Mint](#) and [TWH Collectibles](#). That's also the starting range for hand-built white-metal models, like Route 1 Scale Models. Climb even higher, into the \$500 and \$600 range, and you're looking at [Fan Kit Models](#) out of Romania. They're resin and come as both unpainted kits (cheaper) and built versions.

Below is their newest release, a beautiful 1:50 scale replica of an Oshkosh P-15 crash truck. Developed for the military in 1977, this eight-wheel monster carried 6,100 gallons of water and 515 gallons of foam. It was equipped with two 1,250 GPM pumps, and two 1,200 GPM turrets. It measured 45.2 feet in length, 10 feet in width, and a height of 13.8 feet. And those tires, those huge tires. As memory serves, the P-15 was listed in the Guinness Book of World Records for a number of years, as the world's most powerful fire engine. [Read more about the model.](#)



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Accident Scene

08/01/10 62 W, 1 I - + 14 - 9

Motor-vehicle accident with subject trapped on Lynn Road at Battleford Drive, about 3:00 p.m. today. Road name sure sounded like "Saddleside" as these aging ears heard Locution announce it. Engine 16, Ladder 3, Rescue 3, Six Forks EMS 12_, District 4 out of view and parked on the side street, and big ol' Truck 1 with some big ol' blocking. Click to enlarge:



Good shot. Mills drivin the big ole T1 today

lee - 08/01/10 - 19:14

I intentionally approached the scene from the west, for a high, long photo. Those types of far away shots are harder to get, usually because of prohibitive geography. You also have pause and take the time to take the "establishing shot."

Legeros - 08/01/10 - 19:19

Excellent traffic blocking by T1 and the engine. All it has to be is a road to need good blocking.

DJ - 08/01/10 - 20:42

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
 No

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Bodies at Work

08/01/10 23 W, 1 I - + 16 - 5

Second view from said accident. Patient and vehicle are stabilized. Access through roof in progress. Also click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

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Yes

No

Comment:

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

Rocky Mount Funeral Coverage

08/01/10 75 W, 1 I - + 11 - 7

Rhett Fleitz passes along photos from the funerals of Fire Chief Posey Dillon and Firefighter Danny Altice in Rocky Mount, VA. The two were killed in an apparatus accident on Monday, July 26. Some 200 images have been posted of the two funerals from Friday, by VAFireNews.com photographers Fleitz and Drew Abel.



Rhett Fleitz/VAFireNews.com

The links:

- [Funeral coverage](#), including links to local coverage
- [Dillon's funeral photos](#)
- [Altice's funeral photos](#).

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

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Comment:

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Greetings From Elmira

08/02/10 26 W, 1 I - + 8 - 9

Postcard found for sale on eBay, from 1964. Top photo is Farmington City, bottom photo is Ladder 1, Chapel Hill. Click to slightly enlarge:



And Elmira is not far from my hometown. That's pretty neat.

Duda - 08/03/10 - 09:07

I remember when CH had that ladder. got some pic's of same.

lee - 08/03/10 - 16:24

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

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Yes
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Single Pedal For Acceleration and Braking

08/03/10 83 W - + 10 - 4

Here's a [nifty New York Times article](#) about a Japanese inventor's two decade-old design that combines a brake pedal and accelerator into a single foot control for automobiles. He drives using same, and designed the thing after accidentally stomping the gas, and nearly striking a bicyclist. Turns out we're wired to floor it in times of alarm, say experts. And which can translate into dangerous acceleration, when we really need to brake. Pretty interesting stuff.

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

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Expo Next Week

08/04/10 196 W, 2 I - + 7 - 12

How are we already in August? This fast-seeming summer continues next week with the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#) at the Raleigh Convention Center. Here's what's happening, from the [program schedule](#):

- **Tuesday, Aug. 10**
Golf Tournament, Wake County Firefighters Association Meeting
- **Wednesday, Aug. 11**
Pre-Conference Workshops, Meetings
- **Thursday, Aug. 12**
Breakfast, Opening Ceremony, Keynote by Randolph Mantooth, Meetings, Memorial Service, Evening Reception
- **Friday, Aug. 13**
Workshops, Meetings, Exhibit Hall Open
- **Saturday, Aug. 14**
Workshops, Meetings, Exhibit Hall Open, Motorcycle Ride, Apparatus Parade, Haz-Mat Challenge, Evening Banquet
- **Sunday, Aug. 15**
Meetings, Devotional



Sundry notes:

- This year's parade starts earlier, now at 10:00 a.m. [More info.](#)
- This year's haz-mat challenge has two courses this year, one for Type I teams, and one for Type II teams. [More info.](#)
- The state's firefighters have been meeting annually since 1889, and with the only exception for the years during world wars. [Read some history.](#)
- Mr. Blogger's workshop is Friday, August 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The topic is again North Carolina Firefighting History. [Read more.](#)

Photos from last year, for those that missed it, and want to see what they'll be seeing this year:

- [Mike Legeros](#)
- [Lee Wilson](#)



Lee Wilson photo

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

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Large Diameter Hose Histories?

08/04/10 39 W - + 9 - 6

Last-minute research for next week's North Carolina firefighting history talk. When did large diameter hose become popular in our state? Dig through your memories. What departments starting using same, and when? Thanks for any input.

I did a few ride-a-longs in the Bull City back in '93, they had it then. Not sure when they got it...

Silver - 08/04/10 - 21:19

Atlantic Beach started with 4" around 1987, Morehead City around the same time (don't remember if it was 4" or 5"), Emerald Isle started with 5" around 1989.

DJ - 08/04/10 - 22:53

I remember taking a class on LDH at an "area school" in Fayetteville in 1987 or so. Some Cumberland County departments had it (Bonnie Doone, I think). Zebulon purchased 5" in late 1987, if memory serves correctly.

Zeb101 - 08/05/10 - 08:38

Parkwood had it on all pumpers and the aerial when I started in 1987 and I think most of the other Durham County stations had it as well. Mike, it might be worth checking with Jon U. if you have his contact info as he was there a few years before I was.

D.Cates - 08/05/10 - 23:42

Not sure on the exact year, but at least the mid 1980's when Harnett County Departments such as Angier, Buies Creek, and Coats began using it. Thanks in part to Angus Fire Suppliers now Kidde Equipment located in Angier. In fact these departments were in some of Angus' training videos for their LDH on how to properly use it.

J. Sorrell ([Email](#)) - 08/07/10 - 11:26

I am not sure the exact year, but Lower Currituck Vol. Fire Department place 5" LDH into service in the 1985-1987 time frame. They had two pumper tankers and one hose/reel truck outfitted.

Griggs - 08/08/10 - 10:58

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

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 Yes
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Mini City and Other Memories

08/05/10 303 W, 1 I - + 8 - 6

[Here's an interesting article on Mini City](#) that recently appeared in the *Midtown Raleigh News*. It talks about the current state of the area, along with its history. The community, defined roughly as a two-mile radius around the intersection of Capital Boulevard and Millbrook Road, was first envisioned in the 1970s. Developers and city planners had the idea of a city outside the city, combining both commercial and residential aspects. At that time, Highway 1 was a rural road far past the city limits. But Raleigh was growing in that direction.

Another milestone happened in 1993, when the city approved the giant shopping on the southwest corner of the intersection. Total of 64 acres, room for really big stores, and nearly 3,500 parking spaces. By the year 2000, notes the story, major stores were closing, and the future of the center was doubted. The article also talks about the residential demographics of Mini City. It's more ethnically diverse than the rest of the city, with fairly young residents. Compared to the rest of the city, the number of vacant homes is slightly higher. But the percentage of renters versus owners is consistent with the rest of the city.

Fire protection in Mini City historically originated with the New Hope Fire Department, and whose Station #1 is located just around the proverbial corner. To the west, Station #15 opened on November 13, 1974. Fourteen years later, the city opened Station #19 on May 11, 1988. Located at 4209 Spring Forest Road, they operated a 1968 American LaFrance fiberglass-over-open-top pumper at the get-go. About a year later, a fresh faced recruit was assigned on "B" shift. One M. J. Legeros served there six months. That was one slow station. Maybe a call or two a cycle, back then. Click to enlarge below.

But I digress. [Read the article on Mini City](#).



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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

High Water

08/05/10 45 W, 1 I - + 10 - 5

Glenwood Avenue just east of Hertz Drive, facing east. Three of four lanes closed. Department of Transportation on scene. Raleigh police units diverting eastbound traffic at Lynn Road. What else happened during tonight's storms? We were at the movies. Click to enlarge:



And what's the count for working fires this week, after the various storms have been rolling through?

Legeros - 08/05/10 - 21:55

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

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

Red Light Runners in Knightdale

08/05/10 33 W - + 10 - 3

As [referenced in this WRAL story](#), here's a YouTube clip of collisions and close calls as captured by red-light cameras in Knightdale. Complete with cheesy background music!

This video illustrates both the need and the problem with red light cameras. The jeep at the 35 second mark takes out 2 other vehicles because they weren't prepared for the car in front of them to stop. But plenty of others simply show people busting the red. The best driving is the activity bus that swerves to avoid a rapid stopping car and cleanly makes the lane shift and on through... you can see at least one student getting sloshed about in the rear. I wonder what went through their minds!

Been Busted - 08/05/10 - 23:37

Problem? I don't see any problem with the cameras. The only problem I see are with the drivers who aren't paying attention to their driving. If people would allow the proper distance between the car in front there wouldn't be an issue of not being able to stop in time. Remember, there is no such thing as a traffic accident. They are merely collisions or wrecks.

RescueRanger - 08/05/10 - 23:48

You're right RR. There is no such thing as an "accident." All of these are acts of negligence!

A.C. Rich - 08/06/10 - 09:38

I wonder how many of these drivers were on a cell phone or texting.....

Beach ([Email](#)) - 08/06/10 - 10:45

I agree that all of this is negligence on the part of the driver. However, there are numerous studies that show in ineffectiveness of such devices and the increase in accidents. He is a link: <http://www.motorists.org/red-light-camer..>

Been Busted - 08/06/10 - 13:14

I agree that there would be an increase in accidents. Heck, just pay attention while driving on an interstate at how close cars are to each other and that's at speeds of 65+mph. The ineffectiveness of these devices are short term. I'm willing to wager these devices will have a long term

effect especially on those who have collided with another vehicle due to their own inattentiveness.

RescueRanger - 08/06/10 - 14:17

There are studies either way on the effectiveness. But one thing I can tell you. The sheer CLARITY of these cameras is amazing.

DJ - 08/06/10 - 14:37

The camera didn't make these people drive that way! The cameras are there for two reasons, catch those who bust the lights which cause the accidents and second to possibly deter those accidents. And to generate revenue! I am for them!

Jason Lane - 08/08/10 - 17:06

Been Busted- keep drinking your hateraid. Like brother Lane said, these cameras didnt make you run the light. After working and/or volunteering in the knightdale area before and after the installation of the cameras; I can say that the number of "injury" collisions that we respond on have decreased. Also the number of entrapments and / or pin-ins have decreased significantly. Just remember when getting snapped while responding in the rig, smile and wave!

P.S. I've been busted too

Boggs - 08/10/10 - 10:24

I expect these systems see lower major accidents, and perhaps more minor, last-minute braking wrecks.

It's also a shameless revenue source. Just wait till speeding cameras catch on around here!

Legeros - 08/10/10 - 11:55

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Hose Company No. 3

08/06/10 80 W, 1 I - + 12 - 4

For your Friday enjoyment, here's a 1913 photograph of Raleigh's Hose Company No. 3, in front of old Station 3 on East Hargett Street. This image from the State Archives is usually shown in portrait orientation, and with with the station house also shown. This larger, closer view-- with shadows removed using PhotoShop Elements-- reveals a nifty level of detail. What equipment can you spot in the wagon? Click **once or twice** to enlarge:



North Carolina State Archives photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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

Movie Trailer

08/06/10 30 W - + 6 - 13

Veering off-topic and with a warning: watching the following video clip may cause diminished cognitive ability, and/or laughing out loud. Opens in October. Happy weekend.

Are you serious, that was awesome. The part at the end with the high-five is my favorite. I would love to do that in the bunk room at shift change!

Nate - 08/06/10 - 20:30

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](#))

Truck Mounted Attenuators

08/06/10 65 W - + 7 - 17

Always wondered what these impact-absorbing devices were called, that are deployed on construction vehicles on highways. Truck mounted attenuators. Here's a long video about a particular brand of the things, that shows how they work and includes some success stories. Guess they're unsuitable or maybe too expensive for fire apparatus. If they're weren't, we'd have seen them adapted already, right?

I used to work for division of a highway safety company that designed the first truck mounted attenuators (TMAs) several years ago. I sent an email to that division asking them to come up with a way to mount to a fire truck, but never got a response. I had initially thought some sort of hydraulic setup that would place the TMA on top of the truck, until needed for blocking might work, but who knows...

Barrett - 08/09/10 - 12:00

The unit protects work crews from errant vehicles and protects motorists from shadow vehicles. The open design and all steel construction makes routine inspection quick, reliable and simple.

ryan kim ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 01/02/12 - 03:52

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

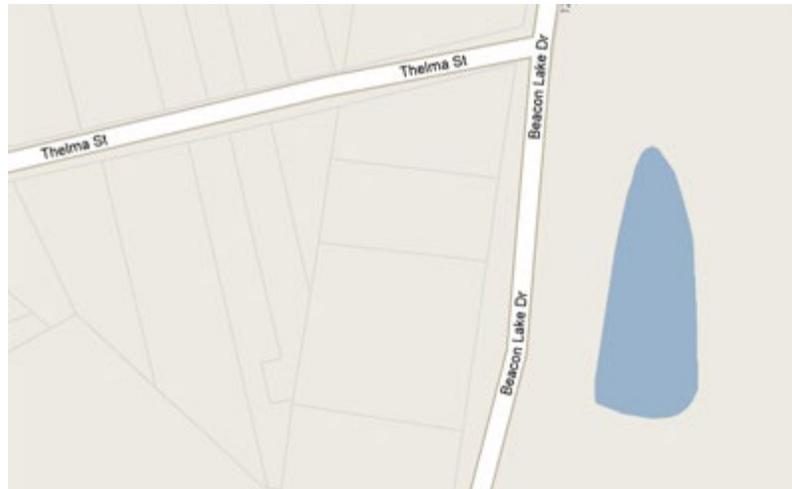
Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Beacon Lake History?

08/07/10 88 W, 1 I - + 7 - 11

A reader inquires if there's a history of Beacon Lake, after learning of something interesting off Beacon Lake Drive. 'Tis a man-made swimming hole, with cement block walls around a creek, and a building in the woods. Google Maps shows a body of water at the location, but neither aerial photos nor Bing Maps Bird's Eye View reveal closer details. Too many trees! Sounds like some exploring is in Mr. Blogger's future. Readers, any history to report?



Wake GIS says owner is BROADWELL, BRUCE 307 TIFFANY CIR GARNER NC 27529-4328, maybe start there. Owned since 1969. Taxes delinquent since 1992. Broadwell Co

307 Tiffany Circle Garner, NC 27529-4328 Phone: (919) 772-6214

2redline (Email) - 08/07/10 - 14:37

Mike - If you go to Bing's Birds Eye View zoom all the way in and face east between Thelma and Virginia you can make out a perfectly straight line of something in the woods (there are no perfectly straight lines in nature), possibly the block wall. There also looks like some sort of structure or platform above the wall too. You can see another straight line if you face west. Facing south there is a line of evergreens with the creek running in the middle. My guess would be if you went out there you would find the line of evergreens trees on the outside of the block wall and the lake filled in.

Jakey - 08/08/10 - 11:30

I went there yesterday, but determined that my shorts and sandals were insufficient for deep-brush exploration. I will return with long pants and shoes, notably since my skin does not react well to the oils of poison ivy. Could be good winter exploration, when the green is less thick. That is one overgrown area over there, kudzu a go-go!

Legeros - 08/08/10 - 11:33

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

Remember personal info?
Yes

Firefighter Action Figures

08/07/10 211 W, 11 I - + 8 - 17

Many moons ago, this 1:8 scale action figures were displaced in Mike's Man House. Then he got married, moved to a Man Cave, and these guys and gals below were relocated to storage. They're still awaiting release, and perhaps one day will stand again on a shelf or in a display case. Maybe we'll petition Mrs. Blogger for space in the living room. Want your own? Some might be found on eBay or via Google. They were bought some years ago. Click to slightly enlarge, and pardon the horrible flash photography.



Left to right are:

- 1896 "Masked Hero" and 1850s volunteer firefighter, by Gearbox.
- G.I. Joe "Search and Rescue", by Hasbro.
- "Top Jake", by Ertl.
- French firefighter, by Blue Box.
- "Urban Firefighter," "Brush Firefighter," and "Smoke Jumper," by 21th Century Toys.
- G.I. Joe "Smoke Jumper" by Hasbro.
- G.I. Joe "Urban Search and Rescue" by Hasbro.
- G.I. Joe "Navy Crash Crew" times three by Hasbro.
- "Fire-Rescue Helicopter Pilot" by 21st Century Toys.
- G.I. Joe "Deep Water Rescue" by Hasbro.
- Emergency Medical Technician and, yes, with seemingly green skin, by 21st Century Toys.

anyone know were Vanmark figurines can be purchased in Raleigh?

rob mitchell - 12/13/10 - 16:42

Rob they can be purchased at most any Hallmark store

Mike - 12/13/10 - 22:44

Diagrams and Maps

08/07/10 297 W, 4 I - + 4 - 11

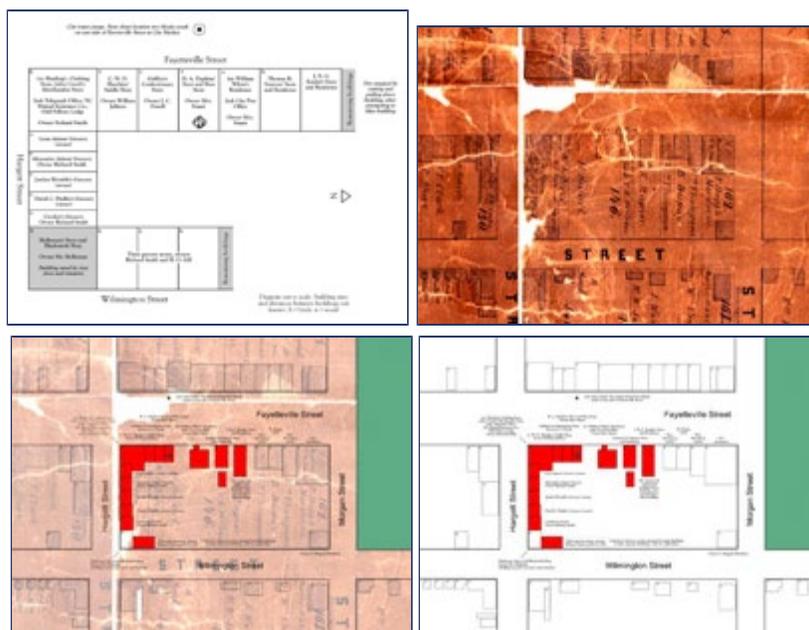
For one or maybe two years, Yours Truly has been slowly documenting the last conflagration in the city's history, when some 17 structures burned on Fayetteville, Hargett, and Wilmington streets in December 1851. This was an instrumental incident, as city officials were compelled to finally take fire protection as seriously as they should. One outcome was the formal organization of the volunteer Raleigh Fire Department.

In the process of composing a narrative, a diagram was attempted. The building locations and characteristics were derived from newspaper accounts. Their positions on the block were a best guess. The results looked pretty good, all things considered. That's the first image shown below.

Fast-forward a few months, when a trip to the State Archives last month located a highly detailed street map from 1847. In addition to streets and lots, each building was noted to scale, along with wood or brick construction. (There were a considerable number of brick buildings by that time!) The city pumps were also indicated, and which numbered five. Those along with private wells were the only water for firefighting. The city had two hand fire engines, delivered 1819 and 1843.

To create a second and more accurate version of the diagram, the two sections of the 1847 map were placed together. Buildings were then drawn as additional layers in the graphics application, along with the outline of each block. The construction was noted using the letters "w" (wood) or "b" (brick). Those buildings that burned were colored red. The Capitol Square was colored green.

Below are the results. The "from scratch" diagram is the first image; the "from map" diagram evolves over the three other images. Now we can work on finishing the narrative! Click once or twice to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes

Trailers, Trains, Reality

08/07/10 109 W, 1 I - + 7 - 2

Speaking of movie trailers, below is the preview for a new Tony Scott moving coming in the fall. It's loosely based on the real incident in 2001, when a runaway freight train with 47 cars traveled near 70 miles with nobody at the controls. Crew members slowed the thing by latching a second locomotive onto the end of the train, and then an engineer left aboard when the thing had sufficiently slowed. Two of the train's tank cars were carrying hazardous materials. Said one official, "the public was never really in jeopardy." [Read this CNN account](#), and then watch the trailer below. Bit more dramatic, eh?



Tony Scott+Denzell= "Taking of Pelham 123".

I sense a little deja vu here :)

Note: I know the difference between a subway film and a train film but still get flashbacks to that horrible Pelham 123 film.

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 08/08/10 - 00:09

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Whiteville Fire Department Then & Now

08/08/10 57 W, 2 I - + 9 - 13

Our friends at the Whiteville Fire Department pass along a pair of photos, showing an old station and rigs, along with their current station and apparatus. The combination department moved into their current station in 1996. That's the fourth location for the fire department. Click to slightly enlarge:



Whiteville Fire Department photos

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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Last Night's House Fire in Fuquay-Varina

08/08/10 53 W, 1 I - + 18 - 3

[WRAL has posted a good photo](#) from last night's house fire in Fuquay-Varina, on a street they call Cottonfarm, but that neither Google Maps nor Wake County real estate records have heard of. Quite a few house fires this week. Click to slightly enlarge:



WRAL photo

Try Cotten Farm Drive. It's listed on Google Maps and in the Wake County real estate data.

Mrs. Blogger - 08/08/10 - 10:31

Baby, you're the greatest!

Legeros - 08/08/10 - 10:34

They did a good job to save the house. There was a lot of fire load upon arrival.

The Man - 08/08/10 - 18:34

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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Mystery Marker

08/08/10 27 W, 1 I - + 13 - 4

Recognize this piece of stone? There seem to be some of these markers on this side of town.



Looks like a USGS marker. Were there any markings on top?

John Franks ([Email](#)) - 08/09/10 - 12:22

its not a property marker is it?

aaron - 08/10/10 - 00:46

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](#))

Public Safety Departments

08/08/10 82 W - + 12 - 5

More last-minute fact-checking for Friday's history talk yields this expanded list of cities and towns (and one state agency) that operated departments with public safety officers performing combined fire and police duties. There are probably more:

Early Programs

- 1957 - ?
Winston-Salem Fire Police. [Read more.](#)

The Heyday

- 1970 – 1985
Durham
- 1971 – 1993
Chapel Hill
- 1973 – present
Butner. [Read more](#)
- 1973 – 1987
Winston-Salem
- 1976 – present
Morganton
- 1983 – present
Havelock

Recent

- 1996 – 1998
Washington
- 2002 – present
Knightdale

The former town of Long Beach had a Public Safety Department during the 80s. They may have maintained it all the way up until they merged with the town of Yaupon Beach in 1999.

And don't forget Holly Springs.

DJ - 08/08/10 - 13:51

Oh yeah, and Bald Heahd Island just went to the concept recently.

DJ - 08/08/10 - 13:51

Just Don't Cross The Streams!

08/08/10 71 W, 1 I - + 8 - 7

And if you're fuzzy on the whole good/bad thing, try to imagine all life as you know it stopping instantaneously and every molecule in your body exploding at the speed of light. With that bit of silliness out of the way, [this invention](#) was found mentioned on this [firehouse.com forum](#). Not exactly the newest of concepts. But it sure looks bad a@@!



You don't need the whole content of the tank to extinguish a fully involved car

Dennis - 08/08/10 - 15:25

Total Protonic Reversal.

Stantz - 08/09/10 - 00:03

That would be "imploding at the speed of light"...

Spengler - 08/09/10 - 09:59

WHAT DID YOU DO RAY?!?!?!?!?

Venkman - 08/09/10 - 10:00

"That's a big Twinkie."

Zedmore - 08/09/10 - 10:00

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

New Bern Bicentennial Parade, 1910

08/09/10 70 W, 1 I - + 10 - 7

Here's a picture to accompany the transcribed newspaper article below, showing a New Bern Fire Department hose wagon and steam engine in the 200 block of Craven Street. The image is credited to the T. J. Mitchell Collection, New Bern, and is scanned from the excellent *A New Bern Album* by John B. Green III, published 1985 by the Tryon Palace Commission, New Bern. Click to enlarge:



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.

Side Horns?

08/11/10 27 W, 1 I - + 11 - 3

What's the story on these, as seen on a commercial vehicle on Edwards Mill Road the other day:



They're becoming more commonplace. My thought are, they're more likely to alert drivers beside the truck that the driver is p*ssed because they can't get over because you're in the lane beside them and should give way. Otherwise, there's really no good reason. Seems like just another thing for truckers to put on their rigs with the huge array of lights and the wolverine grille covers.

Zeddmore - 08/11/10 - 09:26

They are just train horn copies. The sheer size of them limits where they can be mounted although I would guess on a big rig the room would be plentiful. My guess is that spot just makes for an easy install and since they are so loud they really don't have to face forward. I heard about a couple of Raleigh firefighters mounted a set on their pov's.

RescueRanger - 08/11/10 - 09:35

Makes it easier to rip them off the rig when a truck driver misuses them on a driver.

deaf - 08/11/10 - 09:41

They are the GET THE HELL OF THE CELL PHONE AND TEXTING TOY horns.

Wonder how many underwear skid marks they have caused as clueless drivers are wondering through their day?

Buckwheat - 08/12/10 - 17:56

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Deuces are Wild

08/12/10 89 W, 2 I - + 9 - 6

[Lee Wilson has posted pictures](#) of some of the apparatus that was loaded into the Raleigh Convention Center yesterday for the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#). Looks like a set of "deuce and a half" conversions are going to be displayed. How cool is that? Can you identify the departments? He also took some pictures on the show floor. See you there Friday. History workshop at 9:00 a.m. Hit the exhibit floor toward lunch time. [See more from Mr. Wilson](#).



Lee Wilson photos

The bottom one is Queheel. A rural FD just outside of Maxton in Robeson County.

Marcus - 08/12/10 - 22:12

Top one West End FD from Burke County?

[rocket33] - 08/12/10 - 23:01

Truck numbered 617-They are Burke County Station #77

[e34] - 08/12/10 - 23:12

That Queheel truck is something! It looks like they built it to avoid having to call the Forestry plow...

Duda - 08/14/10 - 11:38

I believe that's a "brush breaker" style of truck, that's seen in the northeast, among other places.

Legeros - 08/14/10 - 13:36

Top photo all the way in the back is it White Lake Vol. Fire Department?

County15 - 08/15/10 - 21:19

Cool. Deuce and a halves making a comeback. You used to find them EVERYWHERE. I remember them at Apex, Durham Highway (later Falls), Morrisville, Yrac, Knightdale, Wendell, Roelsville, Holly Springs, Micro, and more. Some were tankers, others were pumpers. For a while there were two model 530s at RDU at the old National Guard ramp (back when Airport Road was two lane).

DJ - 08/16/10 - 01:51

From what I gleaned at the show, these were all obtained through the Forest service, as part of a cooperative program that acquires assets for fire departments. Close views of the rigs, <http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/2010-0..>

Legeros - 08/16/10 - 06:22

the bottom one is named 1530 aka Lil Bit We took down alot of trees with it. but a real good brush truck

BJ (Email) - 06/24/12 - 22:27

BJ, there was some questions several months ago about the fire depts name (queheel). Can you give some information as to the origin ..

Galax,va - 06/25/12 - 21:03

Here's what we were asking about QFD: <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..>

Legeros - 06/25/12 - 21:06

im on queheel fire department, we are one of the best fire stations down in Robeson county. where you see 1530 on the picture up above, this year we are stepping up again. when other stations looked at our truck they went and got them some.

Adam (Email) - 02/14/15 - 09:46

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.

Hino Chemical Engine

08/12/10 93 W, 1 I - + 7 - 2

Here's the newest addition to the man cave model fleet, a 1977 Hino KB324 chemical engine as replicated in 1:64 scale by [TomyTec](#). It's another Tomica Limited Vintage Neo series fire engine, like the [1980 Hino TC343 aerial ladder](#) that was released in December. Again bought on eBay. No idea on the real rig's specifications, or even how it's used. Might be a heavy pump for commercial or industrial areas. To see actual apparatus from the other side of the world, [visit this link farm](#). Click once or twice to greatly enlarge:



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

Remember personal info?

Yes
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Bus at Airport

08/12/10 107 W, 1 I - + 11 - 7

That's Evac 1 arriving at the General Aviation gate, for a mass-casualty exercise conducted this morning at Raleigh-Durham International Airport. Mike Legeros spent a couple hours photographing the preparations, and those photos will be posted shortly.

The 2009 International/Satrin mobile evacuation base is operated by Wake County EMS, and was delivered nearly exactly a year ago. That's CFR 3 in the distance, one of the airport's two 2000 Oshkosh T-1500 crash trucks.

WRAL was also on hand at the exercise, and [posted this news report](#). 'Twas a warm morning and very warm day, but the breeze sure felt good coming off the runway! Click to enlarge:



Great pics of the drill and the ARFF trucks. Looks like the drill went well. And it's great to see everybody working together to meet a common goal.

CrashRescue - 08/12/10 - 22:04

Where was Six Forks EMS?

EMS 8 - 08/13/10 - 21:02

Probably not needed since they will soon be consumed by Wake EMS just like Garner.

RescueRanger - 08/14/10 - 10:21

RescueRanger: Garner EMS was not "consumed" by Wake EMS. Garner requested assistance due to inability to stay afloat financially and Wake took over their burden as a mutually agreed upon merger. This benefitted BOTH agencies, as it allowed Garner employees to keep jobs they would have otherwise lost. The presence or absence of Six Forks EMS at this drill has nothing to do with Wake EMS or any possible merger. Protecting our 1 million plus citizens requires the resources of all agencies. As CrashRescue stated we all work together toward a common goal and do it very well.

J. D. McLean - 08/14/10 - 10:59

Cities Versus Towns?

08/13/10 88 W - + 7 - 6

From a reader comes this question: what makes a city call itself a town, or a town call itself a city? Any city administration experts handy who can answer that one? The traditional definition of a town is a municipality with less than 10,000 people. Cary's population of 134,000 (2008) handily exceeds same. Do they call themselves a town to maintain a type of image? Whiteville, for example, has a population just over 5,000, and they call themselves a city. Why city or town, or not city or town?

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

[/ Textile](#)

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Your Stories of Emergency!

08/13/10 192 W, 1 I - + 9 - 5

Randolph Mantooth was the keynote speaker yesterday at the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#), currently underway at the convention center in downtown Raleigh.

The veteran character actor is best known for playing paramedic John Gage on the [television series *Emergency!*](#), which aired for seven seasons with 134 episodes (including six movies) from 1972 to 1978.

The show was a combination of genres, blending medical drama and action adventure. It also inspired countless individuals to develop interest and pursue careers in fire and emergency medical services.

For Friday discussion, let's open our vaults, and share our own stories. What did you do when watching the show, or reruns of the show? How did the shows, stories, and characters affect you?

Mr. Blogger remembers watching both the original episodes and reruns as a kid in Minnetonka, MN. That's outside Minneapolis. My best story involves dispatch logs. I had a notebook, and would record each call that Engine 51 and Squad 51 responded to! Did I even classify by call type? Don't remember. Probably.

Yeah, guess my future was already in the making.

What are your stories?

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

Conference Checklist

08/13/10 121 W - + 8 - 5

Ninety minutes until my conference workshop on North Carolina Firefighting History. Let's review the checklist, before leaving the house...

- Memory stick with presentation slides
- CD-ROM with presentation slides, in case memory stick fails
- Computer laptop, in case show-provided computer laptop fails
- Printed version of slides, as memory aid
- Signs that say "TALK SLOW", to be created on site
- Chewing gum, cinnamon
- Bottled water, Propel
- Cameras, like those ever leave my side
- Change of clothes for after the workshop, Hawaiian shirt, shorts, sandals
- Chunk of change, for buying lunch somewhere on Fayetteville Street, and other sundries
- Show times for *The Expendibles* at North Hills, in case a late-afternoon matinee is in order.

Good to go!

See you there.

Now if I can just get the theme to "Emergency!" to stop playing in my head...

Legeros - 08/13/10 - 07:35

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.

Show Floor

08/13/10 40 W, 1 I - + 9 - 6

Exhibit floor at [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#). Open again tomorrow, plus fire truck parade and other stuff. Just don't mess with show security! Those guys in the grey shirts are tough, man, tough. Click to enlarge.



So what has been the most popular truck on the display floor?

GH - 08/14/10 - 15:31

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

Another Reserve Ambulance

08/13/10 69 W, 1 I - + 12 - 6

Been seeing what's seemingly a Holly Springs EMS unit around town lately? That's actually a reserve Wake County EMS ambulance, currently on loan from the town of Holly Springs. It's presently part of the reserve fleet, and hasn't been re-lettered yet. Hadn't seen this truck before, period? Join the club. Guess more regular visits to the south are needed.



Hey, Mike, come on down to the south side! There's been a lot of changes. We have electricity now, paved streets, and the mail runs 7 days a week now.

DJ - 08/13/10 - 21:07

sharp looking ambulance to me.

CFP 7021 - 08/13/10 - 22:24

Wow, DJ, how did y'all pull the mail trick off? Our mail on the east side of the county only runs 6 days a week!

RescueRanger - 08/14/10 - 10:19

Typo-ese on my part. It is six days a week. But we have gotten rid of the central operator and we can dial direct now on the telly-phone...

DJ - 08/15/10 - 20:29

I've only seen that ambulance downtown when there were concerts at the amphitheater. I assumed it was some sort of special assignment of "off duty" work, like the Garner Heavy Rescue and Medical Transport folks. Of course, seeing ANY ambulance far away from it's home base isn't a surprise these days. I just assume they went by WakeMed, and AVL caught them as the closest unit to the next call.

rfburns - 08/16/10 - 13:13

It's a regular member of the Wake County fleet. It's taken a little bit of waiting in line to get the re-branding done (our guy has about 50 WCSO cars to do, and has been working on the new DC-2 and DC-3 vehicles). Meanwhile, the troops are getting to test drive the Chevy 4500 chassis, which will be on the next 11 (count 'em, eleven!) ambulances to arrive. ETA October, now on the line at McCoy Miller. Early reviews are that this new Chevy chassis will be much favored over the (horrible) 6.0L Ford E-450 chassis.

CHIEF 100 - 08/18/10 - 20:27

Thanks for the update, Chief!

I believe there's a fleet photo in Lee or my near future...

Legeros - 08/18/10 - 20:33

How about when our 11 new trucks arrive? And the 2 new DC vehicles?

CH100 - 08/19/10 - 13:08

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'?

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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 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 - Workshop Slides « Another Reserve Ambul... » North Carolina Fire M... Posted and More!

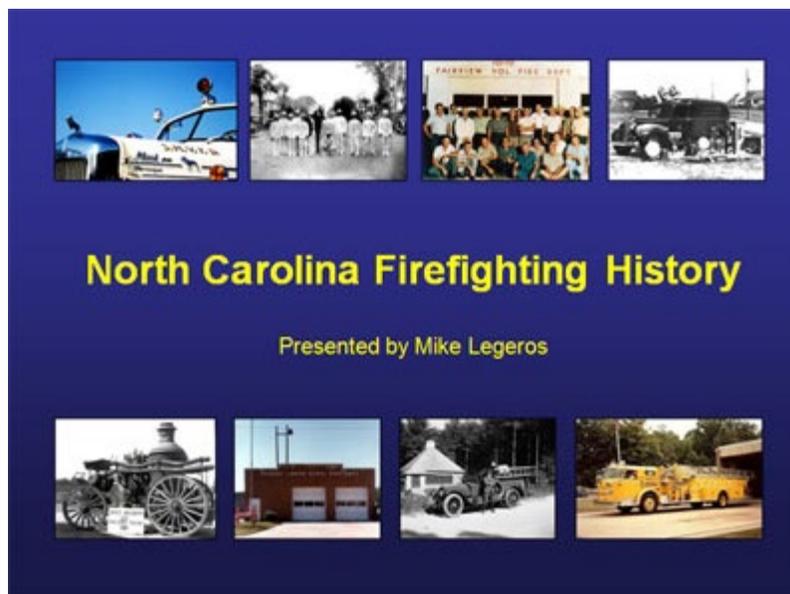
Workshop Slides Posted and More!

08/14/10 146 W, 1 I - + 13 - 8

The presentation slides from yesterday's workshop on North Carolina Firefighting History have been [posted to legeros.com](#), in a newly updated section of the web site. That is, a handout version of the slides, versus the source file. They're in PDF format, which remains one of the greatest things since sliced bread.

In addition, a number of older presentations have been [added to the web page](#), including Great Fires of Raleigh from 2008, Incident Photography from 2007, and a curious Garner Fire Department history from 2004. Don't remember the audience, but the slides include early Raleigh and Wake County histories.

Last but hardly least, there's also the latest version of Mike's presentation on the history of the Raleigh Fire Department. That one's presented to recruit classes, and on-demand on for other audiences.



Great airport pics, Mike!

DJ - 08/14/10 - 21:57

Nice 1954 B-series Mack Fire Engine. I wonder who's that is??

A.C. Rich - 08/15/10 - 11:22

Is it Stony Hills?

Steven ([Email](#)) - 08/15/10 - 12:31

Name: (real name
preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes

North Carolina Fire Museums?

08/14/10 122 W - + 7 - 10

This question was asked after yesterday's workshop. What are the fire museums in North Carolina? As well as what museum's have firefighting displays? Readers, help out on this one. Here's what comes immediately to mind:

Fire Museums

- [Catawba County Firefighter's Museum](#) (see [photos](#))
- Charlotte Fire Museum (now closed, see [photos](#))
- Fayetteville Fire Department History Room (under renovation, see [photos](#))
- [King's Mountain Fire Museum](#)
- [New Bern Firemen's Museum](#) (see [photos](#))
- Plummer Hook & Ladder Museum in Warrenton (under development)
- Raleigh Fire Department History Trailer (under development)
- [Rocky Mount Fire Museum](#) (see [photos](#))

Museums with Firefighting Displays

- Chapel Hill Museum (now closed, see [photos](#))
- Mt. Airy Museum of Regional History
- [Museum of the Albemarle](#) (see [photos](#))
- And many others, no?

Name: (real name preferred)

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Web Site: (optional)

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Yes

No

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Caption This Photo

08/14/10 32 W, 1 I - + 7 - 11

As seen for this morning's apparatus parade on Fayetteville Street, as part of the events for the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#).



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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Yes

No

Comment:

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Capping a Chlorine Leak

08/14/10 71 W, 1 I - + 6 - 4

Simulated of course, as part of the annual [Haz-Mat Challenge](#), held this morning around the corner from the convention center. More details later, along with the winners. This is Greensboro's team (right?), demonstrating how to cap a chlorine leak atop a railroad car. More photos later. Might take till tomorrow to get posted. And good luck getting this shot at a real incident! Click to enlarge:



The finishers: The times were close and everyone did a great job!! Each team consisted of 4 persons that worked in pairs to accomplish the skills course.

1. Wilmington FD RRT2
2. Fayetteville FD RRT3
3. Greensboro FD RRT5
4. (Tied) Williamston-RRT1/Asheville FD RRT6 (combo team); High Point FD
5. Monroe FD
6. Raleigh FD RRT4

A.C. Rich - 08/15/10 - 11:19

No home court advantage. someone's team needs some mojo sprinkled on them next year...

lee - 08/15/10 - 17:16

Here are my pics from the haz-mat challenge, <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/20..>

Legeros - 08/15/10 - 19:16

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Cadillac Miller-Meteor

08/14/10 28 W, 1 I - + 17 - 9

As seen *after* this morning's apparatus parade on Fayetteville Street. What's the model year for this Cadillac Miller-Meteor ambulance? What a beauty. Click to enlarge:



great looking ambulance!

charlie - 08/14/10 - 17:28

1965 or 1966. Minor differences between those years in trim. 1964 had side by side quad headlights. 1967 had over and under, but they were mounted at an angle.

DJ - 08/14/10 - 21:48

Back in the early 70s, there was a 1/24 scale model kit of an ambulance just like this one. It could be built with Detroit Fire Department livery or a private ambulance company livery. The biggest difference was that the model kit did not have a Federal beacon on it, it was built with four Grimes lights on the roof. Grimes lights are similar to aircraft marker lights.

I keep threatening my wife that I am going to buy one of these, although the one I want is a 1969 Superior Cadillac. Maybe one day.

DJ - 08/15/10 - 20:27

I think Warr County is in desperate need of a vintage hearse being driven around by someone in a hot pink Hawaiian shirt. And I know just the guy to pilot the thing...

Legeros - 08/15/10 - 20:33

Sure. You could lower it, with 20" spinner wheels, neon/LED lighting....flames on the sides...

DJ - 08/16/10 - 01:46

Make sure to leave room in the back for the proton packs...

Stanz - 08/16/10 - 10:44

Event Photography

08/15/10 437 W - + 10 - 7

Do you do weddings? Negative. Not your thing? In a manner of speaking. I have never shot a wedding, and thus don't know how. More importantly, I have never been interested in shooting weddings. Thus, I doubt that the quality of my work would be comparable to the stuff you've seen on [the photo site](#).

But wouldn't a chunk of change compel better pictures? Well, we all know that answer. Money doesn't necessary buy quality. But wouldn't the expectations of the customer also compel better pictures? Perhaps. Probably. And maybe too much. Bearing such "precious cargo" might be quite the mental load! Better all around to recommend a pro. You'll get closer to what you're paying for.

There's also the issue of time. Event photography means lots of photos and *lots* of time spent processing those photos. Start with, say, a half-day to shoot the wedding. Take another half-day, maybe full day, to process the pictures. Then there's the physical prints, which have to be created. That's another X number of hours. No way man. Too much time, and that's taken away from more-interesting pursuits.

But how about fire service events? Those are certainly more compelling, but even they add up. There are quite a few once-a-year events around town, ranging from big (conventions) to small (dinners). I would love to attend as many possible, but even that commitment adds up, well, over time. The annual this, the quarterly that, and soon you're talking real time! Thus the reason some events are skipped some years, or only visited every so many years.

It's all balance. It's all a conscious attempt to balance photography of the scheduled stuff with those things unplanned. Meaning, fires and other incidents. (And since Raleigh's not a burning city, actual fireground time is fairly limited.)

Then, we stop playing photographer, and start being the history guy. There's another entire machine to manage. Then that guy goes to sleep, and Mr. Blogger awakens. Talk about a time suck! Get your own online platform and watch the hours seep away. (And don't even talk to me about answering e-mail!) Guess that's what's happening to lots of folks with Facebook, no?

How did shooting at the Fire Expo go? I wasn't an official photographer by any means, and just took a mess of pictures for fun. Hundreds, maybe a thousand-ish. The quantity of the keepers ended up something like this:

- Exhibit Floor, minus Deuces, minus People - 34
- Exhibit Floor, Deuces - 34
- People - 75
- Outdoors, minus Parade, minus Haz-Mat Challenge - 37
- Parade, before - 48
- Parade, during - 71
- Haz-Mat Challenge - 86
- Banquet -15 (estimated)

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Detecting Dirt on DSLR Sensors

08/15/10 81 W, 1 I - + 12 - 3

Can we talk dirty for a little while? Here's a neat technique for determining just how dirty the sensor of your digital SLR camera might be. Open a blank document file on your computer, so you have a screen of white. Take a picture of the white screen. Open the picture in your favorite image editor. Manipulate the contrast and brightness until you see specks. Viola! Commence sensor cleaning.



Even better than a computer screen would be a flat, white ceiling with the camera laying flat on a table. That way, your colors/lighting should be uniform on the sensor & easier to see the spots without as many contrast/brightness adjustments. (Note the darker areas in the bottom of the photo)

dipatch - 08/17/10 - 04:54

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Web Site: (optional)

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Yes

No

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

Top Counties For Fire Stations

08/15/10 61 W - + 9 - 5

As compiled in the Summer 2010 issue of [Carolina Fire Rescue EMS Journal](#), mixed with counties from South Carolina. Here's our state's top counties for fire stations:

1. Wake - 75
2. Guilford - 72
3. Mecklenburg - 59
4. Rowan - 42
5. Buncombe - 41
Cumberland - 41
Forsyth - 41
6. Robeson - 39
7. Gaston - 36
8. Brunswick - 34
9. Wayne - 33
10. Davidson - 32
11. Randolph - 31
12. Onslow - 30
13. Johnston - 28

I saw this list published, and I immediately thought it was wrong.

I'll have to check my lists, but something doesn't pass the smell test.

harkey ([Email](#)) - 08/15/10 - 16:22

Yup, 75 seems right for Wake County, unless you add the NC Air National Guard fire station at the airport, and Garner Station 4, which is opening soon:

1. Apex 1
2. Apex 2
3. Apex 3
4. Apex 4
5. Bay Leaf 1
6. Bay Leaf 2
7. Bay Leaf 3
8. Cary 1
9. Cary 2
10. Cary 3
11. Cary 4
12. Cary 5
13. Cary 6
14. Cary 7 / Morrisville 3
15. Durham Highway
16. Eastern Wake 1

17. Eastern Wake 2
18. Falls
19. Fairview 1
20. Fairview 2
21. Fuquay-Varina 1
22. Fuquay-Varina 2
23. Fuquay-Varina 3
24. Garner 1
25. Garner 2
26. Garner 3
27. Garner 4
28. Holly Springs 1
29. Holly Springs 2
30. Holly Springs 3
31. Hopkins
32. Knightdale 1
33. Knightdale 2
34. Morrisville 1
35. Morrisville 2
- Morrisville 3 (see Cary 7)
36. NC Air National Guard
37. Raleigh 1
38. Raleigh 2
39. Raleigh 3
40. Raleigh 4
41. Raleigh 5
42. Raleigh 6
43. Raleigh 7
44. Raleigh 8
45. Raleigh 9
46. Raleigh 10
47. Raleigh 11
48. Raleigh 12
49. Raleigh 14
50. Raleigh 15
51. Raleigh 16
52. Raleigh 17
53. Raleigh 18
54. Raleigh 19
55. Raleigh 20
56. Raleigh 21
57. Raleigh 22
58. Raleigh 23
59. Raleigh 24
60. Raleigh 25
61. Raleigh 26
62. Raleigh 27
63. Raleigh 28
64. Raleigh-Durham Airport
65. Rolesville
66. Stony Hill 1
67. Stony Hill 2
68. Swift Creek
69. Wake Forest 1

- 70. Wake Forest 2
- 71. Wake Forest 3
- 72. Wake-New Hope 1
- 73. Wake-New Hope 2
- 74. Wendell 1
- 75. Wendell 2
- 76. Western Wake
- 77. Zebulon

Legeros - 08/15/10 - 18:34

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Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

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Yes

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Human Resources Challenges in Emergency Communications Centers

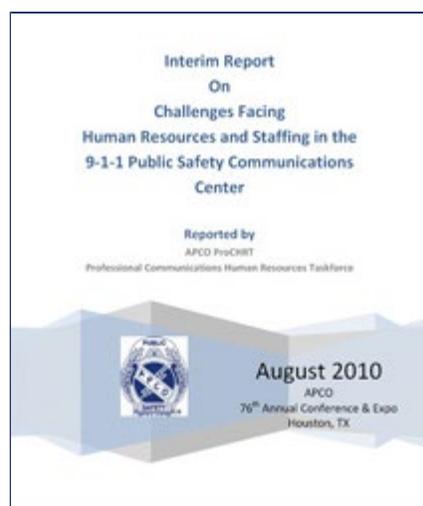
08/16/10 156 W, 2 I - + 18 - 3

From a reader comes some interesting Monday morning reading, a preliminary report issued from APCO task force titled *Challenges Facing Human Resources and Staffing in the 9-1-1 Public Safety Communications Center*. The 23-page document, which was received at the recent annual APCO convention in Houston, opens with an executive summary that gives very bad grades for communications centers nationwide.

One of the prominent problems is that employees are in constant turnover. Nearly all telecommunicators leave the field before retirement (97%), and which is about the opposite for police officers and firefighters.

There's also a state-by-state breakdown on statewide training, which doesn't always exist, or that information on same was not provided. In North Carolina, the report says, no training standard reportedly exists. For telecommunicators that work under direction of a Sheriff, however, there's a mandatory certification course.

[Read this interesting report](#) , or click on the image below:



Hats of to all the telecommunicators you do a great job. you are the true backbone of the public safety team. Thank You.

Duck R3 - 08/16/10 - 22:49

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

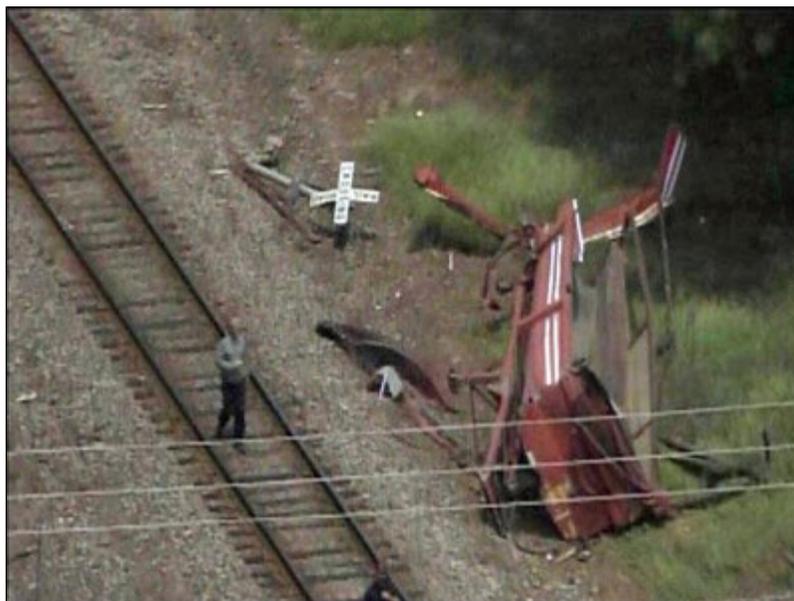
No

/ [Textile](#)

Truck Versus Train in Morrisville

08/16/10 70 W, 1 I - + 7 - 3

[WTVD posted photos](#) of today's truck-train collision on Morrisville. A tractor-drawn dump truck was struck at the McCrimmon Parkway crossing just after noon. No injuries were reported, and the trailer was dragged down the tracks by the Amtrak passenger train. The truck reportedly became stuck on the crossing when the signal arms deployed, and traffic blocked the rig as the train approached.



WTVD photo

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Car Versus Tanker Near Charlotte

08/16/10 65 W, 1 I - + 3 - 5

[WSCO has posted photos](#) of today's tanker fire on Interstate 77 south of Charlotte in York County, SC. The tractor-trailer caught fire after colliding with a car about 3:30 p.m. The truck driver was killed, and two people in the car were seriously injured, [reports the Charlotte Observer](#). The Charlotte Fire Department responded, along with numerous other departments.



WSCO photo

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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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Doors and Walls and Roofs

08/16/10 186 W, 1 I - + 11 - 3

[Firegeezzer this morning](#) offered some personal memories on the destructive abilities of apparatus compartment doors, and notably when said doors are open when an apparatus is leaving quarters. The context was [the prior day's report](#) from Clinton, NY, where the front wall of a fire station-- the brick front wall at that-- was brought down by the open door of a new aerial ladder. And with a great quote from the town's mayor, "Clearly with the accident, we need more training."

And for the 'geezer guys, the all-time champion compartment door destructor was the Dana Fire Department in Henderson County. Their station was so severely damaged in June 2008, that the entire building was torn down. [Read their report.](#)

Just last week, another North Carolina station suffered severe damage when an ambulance struck the building. That was Thursday in Mecklenburg County, when a Medic unit in Cornelius caused the collapse of a roof on Chartown Drive. [Read that story from WCNC.](#) Who's up for inventing a door detection system that prevents vehicle movement when compartments are open?



WCNC photo

Name: (real name preferred)
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Remember personal info?

Yes
 No

Comment:

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Haz-Mat Challenge

08/16/10 276 W, 1 I - + 9 - 5

Here are details on Saturday's [Haz-Mat Challenge](#), which was part of last week's [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#).

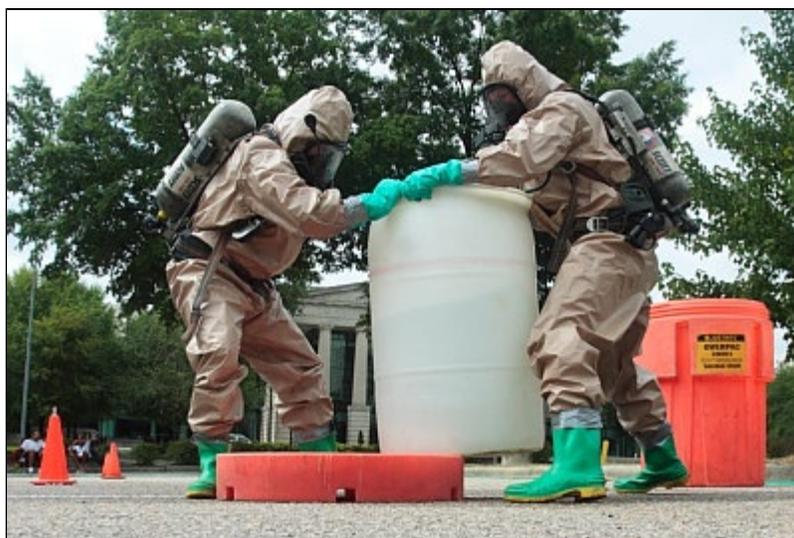
Seven teams participated:

- Fayetteville (RRT 3)
- Greensboro (RRT 5)
- High Point 4
- Monroe
- Raleigh (RRT 4)
- Williamston (RRT 1)/Asheville (RRT 6) (combination team)
- Wilmington (RRT 2)

The evolutions consisted of the following:

- Application of Chlorine C Kit.
- Overpack drum, place on dolly, and transport drum.
- Place Vetter Bag on leak simulator.
- Place Rescue Randy in Stokes Basket and carry to finish line.

Time penalties were assessed for technique and safety infractions.



The teams finished in the following order:

1. Wilmington (RRT 2) (First Place winners)
2. Fayetteville (RRT 3)
3. Greensboro (RRT 5)
4. High Point
Williamston (RRT 1)/Asheville (RRT 6) (tie)
5. Monroe
6. Raleigh (RRT 4)

There were two notable firsts:

- This was the first year that no penalty points were assessed for safety issues.
- This was the first year that two teams tied with exactly the same times.

For finishing first, the Wilmington team received four scholarships to a HazMat Specialist Class at TTCI in Pueblo, CO. Their names will also be added to a plaque listing the previous first place winners. They'll keep the plaque at their department until the next challenge. CSX Transportation also donated one scholarship to TTCI, that was awarded as a drawing from all challenge participants. It was won by a member of the Wilmington team.

Following the event, all competitors and attendees enjoyed a hazard-free lunch sponsored by Smiths Detection. Sponsors of the challenge also included HEPACO and RAE Systems.

The planners extend a special thanks to the Raleigh Fire Department for assisting with course set-up and rehab. Mr. Blogger thanks Glenn Clapp for the above information. [See photos from the event.](#)

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

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Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Aftermath of Tanker Fire

08/17/10 77 W, 1 I - + 5 - 3

The *Charlotte Observer* [posted this and other photos](#) of yesterday's tanker fire on Interstate 77 south of the city. Photographer Jeff Sochko took this excellent shot. In addition to the Flint Hill Fire Department, Charlotte sent several units including Engine 37, Ladder 26, Battalion 8, Tanker 37, Foam 1, and Haz-Mat 1. Mutual departments from Mecklenburg County included Pineville, Providence, and Steele Creek fire departments. Coverage also included: [WCNC](#) and [WSCO](#).



Jeff Sochko - Sochko Production / Charlotte Observer photo

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

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment:

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Wrapping The Expo

08/17/10 262 W, 1 I - + 7 - 3

[Pictures have been posted](#) from last week's fire expo in Raleigh, some 400 shots from Friday and Saturday, plus a bit of the banquet on Sunday night, where Raleigh Fire Department Capt. John Fanning was named Fireman of the Year. Congrats, and we're waiting on a press release on that one. Watch this space.

Thanks also to Tim Blaisdell, for snapping shots of Yours Truly in action at his history workshop. Those are included in the photos, and you can see a rare glimpse of Mr. Blogger in something other than a tropical shirt. He was reportedly also seen Sunday night with a tie. And he was wearing it!

Good crowd that morning at the workshop, and thanks everyone for attending. Tried to talk slower, and even had a small sign as a personal reminder. Didn't really work. Got some great questions, and ideas for the future. Was also thinking that maybe a workshop or even round table on incident photography might be in order next year. If they'll have me.

Let's see, on the coverage front, FireNews posted [this summary](#). Lee Wilson is finishing [his photos](#). WRAL posted some [parade photos](#), by Gregory Wiggs and myself. The *News & Observer* also [wrote about the Expo](#). The show also had their own photographers on hand. Maybe they'll show those shots on the [NCSFA web site](#).

Parade was fun, show floor was interesting, and a large time was had seeing folks from both near and far. Thanks for your support on all fronts. **[Now let's go look at Mike's photos.](#)**



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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

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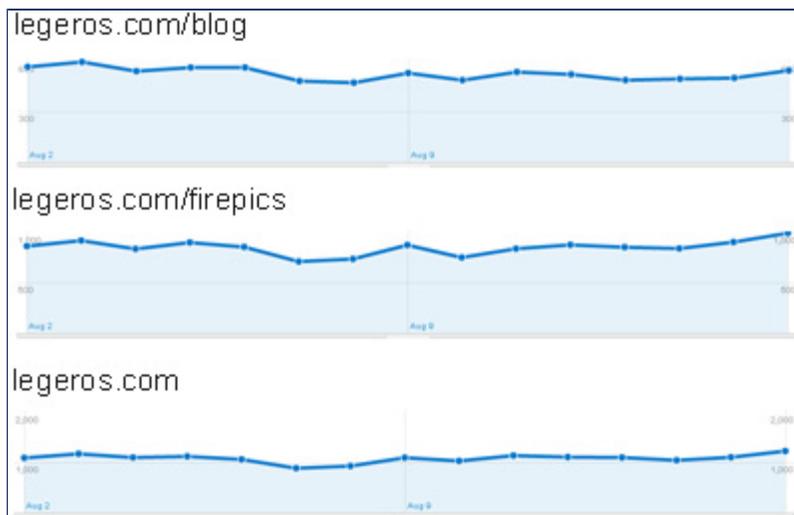
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Show Spike?

08/17/10 64 W, 1 I - + 7 - 8

Did traffic to the blog or the photo site get a bump during expo week? Not really. The blog bounces along at 500-600 unique visits per day, while the photo site tops out around 800-1000. Maybe we could boost numbers with posts about topics more interesting than, say, web site traffic. Here's the two-week traffic, from [Google Analytics](#). Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)

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Comment:

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Yes

No

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Deputy Gets Buzzed

08/17/10 124 W, 1 I - + 8 - 7

[WTVD reported today](#) on a live bee movie that took place today on Highway 64 at Exist 425. There was quite a case of hives when a truck carrying 60 boxes of honey-makers broke down. Pictures from the scene show a stormin' swarm smothering a Dodge Charger. Turned a black-and-white into a yellow-and-white. In came a beekeeper from State College, who smoked the things into submission. Injuries? None reported, though delayed drivers in the area might have been bugged. No word on what it sounded like, but punsters everywhere suspect it was quite a drone. Good thing it didn't attract any sweet-toothed wildlife. Don't know if we could bear those facts. Readers, feel free to add your own stinging humor. Sweet.



WTVD photo

I rode by there before this all evolved. The trailer had probably 40 active hives on it and there was this "cloud" surrounding the trailer. The guy in the truck was just sitting there (probably smarter than most). Guess he knew what would happen if he got out of the cab. No – I didn't stop.

Olson - 08/17/10 - 18:02

Who woulda' known that bees loved pork products so much?..... Pork; "pigs", get it?!?!? 

Silver - 08/17/10 - 18:32

Gong.

Chuck - 08/17/10 - 18:44

I wonder how long it takes Silver to get his next ticket? ;-)

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 08/17/10 - 22:43

Oh c'mon Chuck, that was funny. Marshall, I'll be the one in the slow lane, takin' it nice and easy!

Silver - 08/17/10 - 22:54

Silver, I don't think it is that they love pork as much as it is that they love the glaze on their fingers and mouths from all those doughnuts.

Mike - 08/18/10 - 06:42

Dang it!!! Good one Mike!

Silver - 08/18/10 - 09:46

Press Conference to Highlight Stimulus Success with Cisterns, Aug. 20

08/17/10 90 W, 1 I - + 8 - 9

The benefits and simplicity of a cistern system installed at 11 fire and EMS stations in and around Raleigh are the subject of a press conference at Fire Station 6 at 2601 Fairview Road in Raleigh, at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 20. The City of Raleigh, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources will highlight one of the benefits and success stories from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. [Read the entire press release.](#)



Ahhh... familiar sight. The RFD Station #8 pagodas!

A.C. Rich - 08/17/10 - 20:47

AC, is that where you guys take your long showers?

Duda - 08/18/10 - 09:09

The guys from Cape Fear water Harvesting are installing two of these tanks at Fuquay sta. 3 as I'm typing.

JG - 08/18/10 - 10:23

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Charlotte's Second Airport Fire Station

08/17/10 131 W, 1 I - + 10 - 12

It's a rare occasion that a new airport fire station opens, and Charlotte Fire Station 41 was placed in service last month at Charlotte Douglas International Airport. As [this News 14 story reported](#), it houses seven Charlotte Fire Department members and three North Carolina Air National Guard (NCANG) members. It's located off West Boulevard, near the newly opened third parallel runway.

[Says this CFD stations page](#), the companies operating are Blaze 41, Blaze 42, and Blaze 43. Google finds a little more information. The 20,300 square-foot facility is the first LEED facility on airport grounds, and was built with \$7.2 million of DoD funds through the NCANG.

Fire Station 17, the other one at the airport, is located at [5308 Morris Field Road](#). The companies there are Engine 17, Blaze 1, Blaze 2, Blaze 5, Blaze 7, and Battalion 8.



Here's a little more from this Wiki page, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlotte_F..

Blaze 1

Owned by CFD – Oshkosh/Striker 3000 – Water, Foam, PKW, Halotron

Blaze 3

Owned by NCANG – Oshkosh/Striker 1500 – Water, Foam, PKW

Blaze 4

Owned by NCANG – Ford Excursion – Command Vehicle

Blaze 5

Owned by CFD – Chevrolet 3500 Pick-Up – Command Vehicle/Extrication Equipment

Blaze 6

Owned by CFD – Ford Crown Victoria – Battalion 3

Blaze 7

Owned by CFD – Emergency One/Titan – Water, Foam, PKW

Blaze 8

Owned by CFD – Ford Crown Victoria – Battalion 8

Blaze 9

Owned by NCANG – Ford F-550/Pierce Contender – Rescue Truck

Blaze 17

Owned by CFD – Spartan/Smeal Pumper – Engine 17

Blaze 18

Owned by NCANG – International/KME – Water

Blaze 41

Owned by CFD – Emergency One/Titan – Unknown Agents

Blaze 42

Owned by NCANG – Emergency One/Teledyne – Water, Foam, PKW

Blaze 43

Owned by NCANG – Oshkosh – Water, Foam

Blaze 45

Owned by Unknown – Pick-up – Under Construction

Legeros - 08/17/10 - 20:21

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

How Many Airport Fire Stations in North Carolina?

08/17/10 204 W, 1 I - + 13 - 9

You knew this question was coming. So how many crash-fire-rescue stations are around the state? Here's what parsing the [Carolinas Fire Page list of fire stations](#) finds, along with some from memory. And some Wiki pages and FAA airport diagrams, linked below. All are PDF format .

- Albert J Ellis Airport (Onslow Sta 21)
- [Asheville Regional Airport](#) (Buncombe Sta 24)
- Army Air National Guard, Rowan County Airport (Rowan Sta 90)
- Camp Lejune Sta 1 - [Marine Corps Air Station New River](#)
- Charlotte Sta 17 - [Charlotte Douglas International Airport](#)
- Charlotte Sta 41 - [Charlotte Douglas International Airport](#)
- [Coastal Carolina Regional Airport](#) (New Bern)
- Concord Sta 6 - [Concord Regional Airport](#)
- [Dare County Regional Airport](#) (Dare Sta 22, Manteo)
- [Elizabeth City Coast Guard Station](#)
- Fayetteville Sta 10 - [Fayetteville Regional Airport](#)
- Fort Bragg Sta 2 - Simmons Army Airfield
- Hickory Sta 4 - [Hickory Regional Airport](#)
- [Kinston Regional Jetport](#)
- [Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point](#) (one airfield station, three structural?)
- Marine Corps Auxiliary Landing Field, Bogue (Carteret)
- North Carolina Air National Guard, Raleigh-Durham International Airport
- [Piedmont-Triad International Airport](#) (Guilford Sta 100)
- [Pitt-Greenville Airport](#)
- [Pope Air Force Base](#) (Fayetteville)
- [Raleigh-Durham International Airport](#) (Wake Sta 30)
- Rocky Mount-Wilson Regional Airport
- [Seymour Johnson Air Force Base](#) (Goldsboro)
- [Smith Reynolds Airport](#) (Winston-Salem)
- [Wilmington International Airport](#)

NC Air National Guard – Stanly Co. Airport in Badin, NC

Aaron - 08/18/10 - 02:51

How much would RFD love to take over the RDU stations to keep up with Charlotte?

Spanky - 08/18/10 - 15:11

That was talked about (informally) way back when. But since RDU is owned by Raleigh AND Durham, as well as Wake and Durham Counties, that could get complicated. I'm pretty sure that the city of Charlotte owns CLT. That's why they provide the ARFF service, much like Chicago, Atlanta, etc.

DJ - 08/18/10 - 18:25

Raleigh can't take over the airport due the fact that RDU is a township of a sort. The ARFF business is very complex in many ways. The City of Raleigh would not want the many headaches that comes with it. But it would be nice to have more ARFF personnel at the airport per shift.

CFR106A - 08/21/10 - 19:31

Do airport fire dogs go "arff?"

Legeros - 08/21/10 - 20:13

There would have been a CFR station at New Bern since Piedmont Airlines used to fly in there. Probably no more than a small twin agent unit at the time, but they would have been required by the FAA to have CFR equipment on the field.

DJ - 01/08/11 - 20:46

Yes, as I recall, their main terminal building has an apparatus bay for what I think is a small twin-agent unit. At least, what I recall seeing parked in there some years ago. The airport is known as Coastal Carolina Regional Airport.

Legeros - 01/08/11 - 21:01

For extra credit, which three airports were known, respectively, as Grannis Field, Stallings Field, and Simmons-Knot Field?

DJ - 01/10/11 - 13:49

Grannis Field was the former name of Fayetteville Regional Airport, which changed sometime in the 70's, I think?

Stallings Field is now known as Kinston Regional Jetport, or the Global Transpark Airfield — depends on who you talk to.

That last one, I've never heard of. And I have flown a whole lot of places here in North Carolina over the years. But 2 out of 3 ain't bad, so sayeth the song.

CJS ([Email](#)) - 01/10/11 - 16:29

Simmons-Nott was the New Bern airport. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coastal_Car..

DJ - 01/10/11 - 23:20

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Strapped Young Lad

08/18/10 57 W, 1 I - + 7 - 8

That's a Cary Fire Department recruit getting ready to ride a backboard during air ambulance training this morning with WakeMed Air Mobile 1. Can't tell if he's wearing an expression of excitement or fear. Perhaps both? The future firefighters are about five weeks into their academy. Photos forthcoming.



His nickname is Spanky.... he's a little twisted, so I would say it is excitement.

Buckwheat - 08/19/10 - 14:48

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](#))

Barbecue Tiller

08/18/10 103 W, 3 I - + 9 - 6

Reader Paul Attryde saw this this weekend in Glendale, AZ. Called the Fire Up Freedom Fire Truck, it's a Hahn tiller converted into a combination special event vehicle and rolling memorial to the events of September 11, 2001. [Says the owner's web page](#), the rig features a fully functioning 100-foot aerial ladder, four infrared BBQ grills, two gas burners, two soda fountains with ice bins, large flat-screen televisions, a full surround-sound audio system, CD and DVD players, connections for laptop computer inputs, and a satellite system. Talked about a tricked-out truck! Thanks Paul for the photos. Click to enlarge:



Paul Attryde photos

Just some additional info: This rig originally saw service at Stonewall Jackson FD in Prince William County,VA and is a 1987 Hahn tractor with a refurbished 1968 Seagrave trailer.

BFD1151 - 08/22/10 - 20:21

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
 No

A Guy And His Truck

08/19/10 82 W - + 10 - 9

[Statter911](#) found this compelling early arrival video a couple days ago. It depicts the simple human drama of a person reacting to fire impacting a prized possession. Beware strong language, if you are of sensitive ears. [The YouTube clip](#) was shot in downtown Windsor. Click the link in the comments, and there's an aftermath video as well. And the local connection? Mr. Blogger visited that city this summer, while touring Detroit. Easy on the Ford jokes.

If you wondered what happened to John Edwards after Elizabeth dumped him... evidently he is now an engineer with the Windsor Fire Department! Somebody needs to tell him that he should wear his safety vest when operating in the roadway...

Buckwheat - 08/19/10 - 14:59

Classic! The fat feet and floppy arms kill me!

CTK - 08/20/10 - 09:04

For eastern NC folks, Windsor means Windsor, NC! Bertie County. They have a fine fire department, too.

DLH - 08/20/10 - 14:51

Question for responders. How typical or atypical is this guy's level of agitation, compared to what you all have observed and encountered in comparable situations?

Legeros - 08/21/10 - 09:22

I'd say he's acting typical; especially when it's his truck that's burning!!! It always seems like an eternity until help arrives no matter what the situation.

A.C. Rich - 08/21/10 - 13:49

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Car Versus House in Raleigh

08/19/10 45 W, 1 I - + 14 - 6

[WTVD posted this photo](#) yesterday of a passenger car that struck a home at [2742 Cottage Circle](#) yesterday. No injuries. Looks like heavy damage. Wonder what the frequency is of these types of call these days, around here?



WTVD photo

Guess that was a prescient question on the frequency of such calls. One person killed and another injured this morning at 1911 Tryon Road, when they crashed into a house at that location, reports WRAL. <http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/816..>

Legeros - 08/20/10 - 06:26

Happens quite a bit.

Marcus - 08/20/10 - 20:33

Happens almost daily in Charlotte. Sometimes more than once in a day. I never would have thought it would happen quite as much as it does.

Rides An Engine - 08/20/10 - 21:40

And yesterday afternoon, Fuquay was dispatched to a car hitting a house. Didn't get a chance to listen to the size-up, or other details.

Legeros - 08/22/10 - 09:22

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

The Future of Public Relations and Social Media

08/19/10 131 W - + 10 - 4

For your Thursday morning reading, as found on [The Fire PIO](#), here's an interesting and extended posting on the [future of public relations and social media](#). Topics include the evolution of the press release, the evolution of social platforms, current limitations and solutions, connecting with other PR pros, saving money and putting it to good use, and the human factor. Key quote at the end: "Regardless of how an announcement is shared — via wire, blog post, tweet, or otherwise — the critical step has historically been, and will remain, the human element. By directly reaching out to key media and influencers with whom we maintain relationships, we're able to ensure their timely awareness of the news."

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Reaccreditation Team Invites Public Comments on Raleigh-Wake 911 on Monday, August 30

08/21/10 82 W - + 8 - 13

A team of assessors from the Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) will arrive August 28 to examine all aspects of the Raleigh-Wake Emergency Communications Center (911) as a part of the reaccreditation process. As part of the on-site assessment, department employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments through a telephone call-in session on Monday, August 30, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. [Read the entire press release.](#)

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - *WakeMed Begins* « Reaccreditation Team ... » Recognize This Person... *\$87M Cost-Cutting Effort*

WakeMed Begins \$87M Cost-Cutting Effort

08/21/10 64 W - + 10 - 7

Times are tough all over. As this morning's *News & Observer* reports, the county's largest hospital system is planning an \$87 million reduction in annual operating costs as recommended by a consulting firm. Their CEO advises that likely means job cuts in some departments, and phasing out of services that are not a market leader for WakeMed. [Read the article.](#)

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Baker Roofing Company, 1977

08/21/10 386 W, 1 I - + 6 - 6

For your Saturday enjoyment, here's another vintage photo of the Raleigh Fire Department in action. Or an around-the-corner peek at same. This is back when downtown buildings were burning with a considerably greater frequency than present day. That's the Baker Roofing Company warehouse on Martin Street, that burned on January 3, 1977. Four engines and a ladder responded to the 12:15 p.m. blaze, reported the next day's *New & Observer*. More than 30 firefighters were on scene, and no injuries were reported. The fire was controlled within an hour and destroyed the rear third of the warehouse, which sat among several commercial and industrial properties on the block bound by Martin, Harrington, and Davie streets.

This was a lunchtime fire, so hundreds came to watch despite the freezing temperatures. A winter storm was sweeping through the state that day. The spectators watched as flames shot 50 feet into the air, and as crews climbed to the top of the neighboring buildings to fight the fire. (Is that done any more? Using roofs instead of ladders and platforms?) There were also pieces of flaming debris in the air, that crews had to dodge. The approximately 80 by 100-foot warehouse stored asphalt shingles and other roofing materials. The building had been used by the company since about 1918 (!), three years after the company was formed by the father of the owner W. P. (Bill) Baker.

The section that was destroyed, reported the *News & Observer*, consisted of wooden framing, one wall of aluminum siding, and three walls of brick formed by the adjoining structures. One exposure in the rear was protected with a water curtain, that being the Bill Bryant Upholstery Company at 318 Harrington Street. Workers at This End Up Furniture Co. and Sapp Welding Co., meanwhile, carried contents out of their buildings. Inside the burning warehouse, 24-inch-thick brick firewalls gave workers time to remove flammable caulking and cleaning materials from the unburned section of the structure. Those materials were removed by 12:45 p.m., reported that day's *Raleigh Times*.

Police were warning bystanders that there might be materials that could explode. No explosions occurred, but the property had a metal tank on stilts above the warehouse. That worried folks, but it remained upright. It contained a flammable liquid roof coating that the company no longer used. Click to enlarge:



Recognize This Person?

08/21/10 58 W, 1 I - + 14 - 5

This person, probably a firefighter, appeared in a [1936 group photo](#) of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association. Someone's inquired if we can identify the person. They're trying to find a man who died at age 45 and at least two-generations ago. Likely from the Charlotte area. Ring any bells?



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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Kinston Regional Jetport? (Updated)

08/21/10 117 W, 1 I - + 12 - 5

Question from a reader. Does the airport authority operate the fire department [Kinston Regional Jetport?](#) And what sort of apparatus is located there? If memory serves, they once had a Walter crash truck of medium size. Am I remembering that correctly?

Later day update: Google and ye shall find. Looks like the North Carolina Regional Transpark Authority took delivery in 2008 of a [E-One P501 crash truck](#), with a 1500 GPM Hale pump, a 1500 gallon water tank, a 205 gallon foam tank, and a 550-pound dry-chemical system. Nice looking! Notice the flag on the mirror? Betcha the thing had just been unloaded from a flatbed, what do you think?



the NC Forestry Service, Region 2 HQ (the region that covers mainly the eastern counties in the state) is also based out at this airport. they do have several planes and helicopters used for fighting wildfires that also fly out at this port. unknown if they have a vehicle of any size to combat aircraft fires though.

Aaron - 08/22/10 - 01:15

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Mystery Sign

08/21/10 23 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

Looks like it could be as old as the original sections of the station...



BayLeaf #3 or Old Six Forks FD.

Got it! - 08/21/10 - 19:03

Gotta be that!

Mike - 08/21/10 - 22:25

The blue metal gives it away

[sleepingdog] - 08/22/10 - 09:37

Approximately late 70's vintage courtesy of Harrell Sign Co., Bob Harrell was a member then.

Rod Warner - 08/23/10 - 22:11

Vintage sign

Picked \$35

Valued \$70

American Pickers

Rob Mitchell - 08/24/10 - 11:40

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

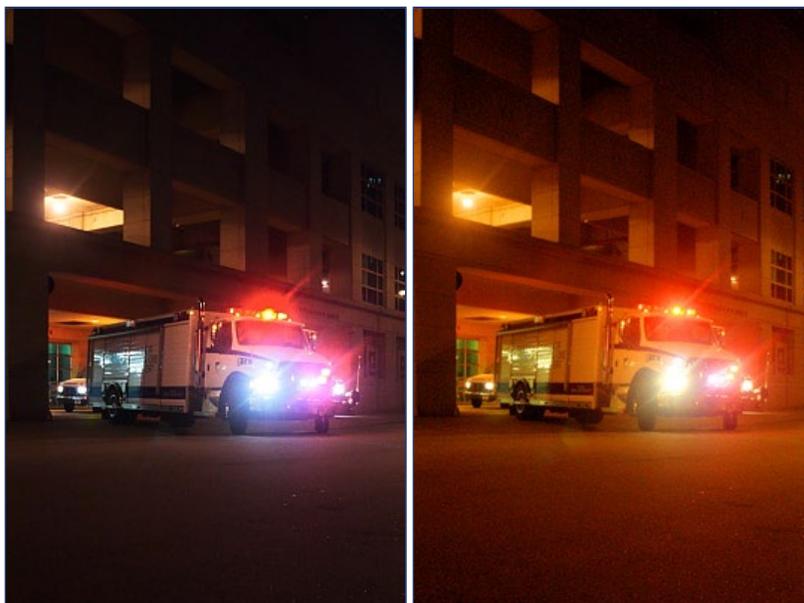
No

/ [Textile](#)

Truck 1 Responds

08/22/10 58 W, 2 I - + 7 - 4

Here's the Wake County EMS major operations support unit, big ol' Truck 1, responding to this evening's house fire in Holly Springs on Bass Lake Road. Arriving units found a one-story residential structure fully-involved. Defensive operations, and controlled in about 20 minutes. Two versions are below, regular and high-dynamic resolution (HDR). 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'?

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

Last Night's House Fire in Holly Springs

08/22/10 100 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

And here's a picture from last night's house fire at [634 Bass Lake Road](#) in Holly Springs, one of a couple [posted by WRAL](#). Dispatched about 11:30 p.m. and controlled about midnight, as memory serves of the radio traffic. Engine 1 arriving at a one-story residential structure fully involved. Defensive operations, as the roof had collapsed by the time the first units arrived. Units on scene included Holly Springs E1, E2, E3, L1, R1, C2, Fairview E1, R1, EMS D2, T1. Next question, are there really bass in Bass Lake?



WRAL/Thomas Babb photo

Can someone give some details on the occupant who came out after being inside the burning house for a good period of time? I think I heard Cmd say the homeowner had just come out and that he had been sleeping in the back bedroom. It seemed like this was at least 20-30 mins into the fire.

lee - 08/23/10 - 13:11

ok, so it wasn't 20-30 mins, but 15+ mins.

lee - 08/23/10 - 16:19

Anyone on the scene of this one? Did that really happen? Please clarify and tell us the media has this all wrong (which is common)....

http://www.wral.com/news/news_briefs/ima..

Silver - 08/27/10 - 23:46

So I guess we can't get the full story on this one, and just leave it up to assumptions.

With that being said, a friendly reminder; DON'T NEGLECT A PRIMARY!!!! Sometimes we get so zoned in on "fightin' fire" that we forget to perform a primary search as soon as possible.

Silver - 09/01/10 - 14:16

A building isn't clear till we say that it is.

Mike - 09/01/10 - 18:28

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Good, bad, or ugly, I believe the single best site for watching quarterbacking in action is [Statter911](#), and the reader comments therein. Those posters are amazing in their perspectives and passions and attentions to detail. The latest incident under the microscope is a fully-involved [bus fire from Anne Arundel County, MD](#). Among the points of interest include the use of an elevated stream, the compressed gas fuel source of the burning vehicle, and a dozen passenger vehicles damaged during the fire. What are the higher-level lessons to be learned from this and other dissections on the Statt Man's site? Let me think on that, and develop some pompous, er, profound observations. [Meanwhile, take a ride on the bus fire.](#)



Statter911 photo

Statter's reader comments are interesting. I guess some do not realize the hazards of CNG cylinders in a fire. For comparison purposes, would a firefighter advocate an offensive attack on a truck loaded with high pressure hydrogen cylinders involved in a fire??? – it's essentially the same hazard as CNG. Not to mention, the "BOOM" will be much stronger than any LPG bleve due to the higher storage pressures of the product.

CNG is stored at a little over 3000 psi and typically in composite high-pressure cylinders (multiple cylinders are used on the roofs of most buses). Even though the cylinders have a pressure relief devices (DOT required), the containers can still rupture due to excessive pressure and heat weakened container structure. In my opinion, the use of "distanced" master streams is a good idea for firefighter safety. I would have used a solid stream and backed off a little more though. Note no FF on the ladder... a good call. Hey, another strategy may have been to simply "let her burn" due to the hazard. Therefore, would we as firefighters recognize the hazard on approach????.... and act appropriately? he give-away is/are the tanks venting from the buses roof in the Statter video. Now, with all that said, I guess you can submit to your training officer for 5 mins. of hazmat con ed.!!

A.C. Rich - 08/22/10 - 12:31

Sorry to be on a soap box but I think not putting suspenders on is lazy, un-professional, and is just asking to get tangled or caught in some kind of hazard. Not to mention it will waste time if you do have to take your coat off to put them on for whatever reason.

rookie - 08/22/10 - 13:54

Suspenders... interesting point. Believe it or not, and many will debate it, but the use of suspenders is not required in the NFPA 1971 standard or by the manufacturers. Sure, they sell them and they are part of your ensemble, but they are not required. Sometimes they are necessary due to the bunker pant's design (i.e. the high-back Globe GX-7); but most of us (um, that are a little older and suffer from the Noassatall

disease) need them to "assist" holding the pants up. In addition, some departments may require them to be worn if there is no waist belt provided with the bunker pants. I guess it is a often overlooked piece of our tradition that has remained over the years.

Suspenders are actually a convenience item and are related to personal preference (unless restricted by your dept's policy). I definitely agree having them hanging down is a danger if you're in tight spaces, but if in command, it's just kinda unprofessional looking!!

A.C. Rich - 08/22/10 - 22:43

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SM9IG9Ogz..>

Good video from before the first due arrived. Don't turn the volume on your speakers up too loud, that CNG venting is a sight and a sound. While the video is entertaining, reading the comments on Statter's blog is hilarious.

Olson - 08/24/10 - 22:50

It's like watching and listening to a jet engine operating!

Legeros - 08/25/10 - 06:58

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Car Versus Pond in Cary

08/22/10 94 W, 1 I - + 7 - 2

That's a 1997 Mercedes submerged in a lake at Cary Park in the 100 block of Walford Way. The vehicle entered the water this afternoon after the driver suffered a medical condition. He escaped safely, and was transported to the hospital with minor injuries. Crews stayed on scene at least until the first attempt at vehicle recovery failed. Tow truck couldn't get it done, and a crane was subsequently brought to the scene. The plunge took place about 1:00 p.m. Recovery continued into the late afternoon.



WRAL image

...I did a double take... I thought it was "Nessie!"

A.C. Rich - 08/22/10 - 22:45

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

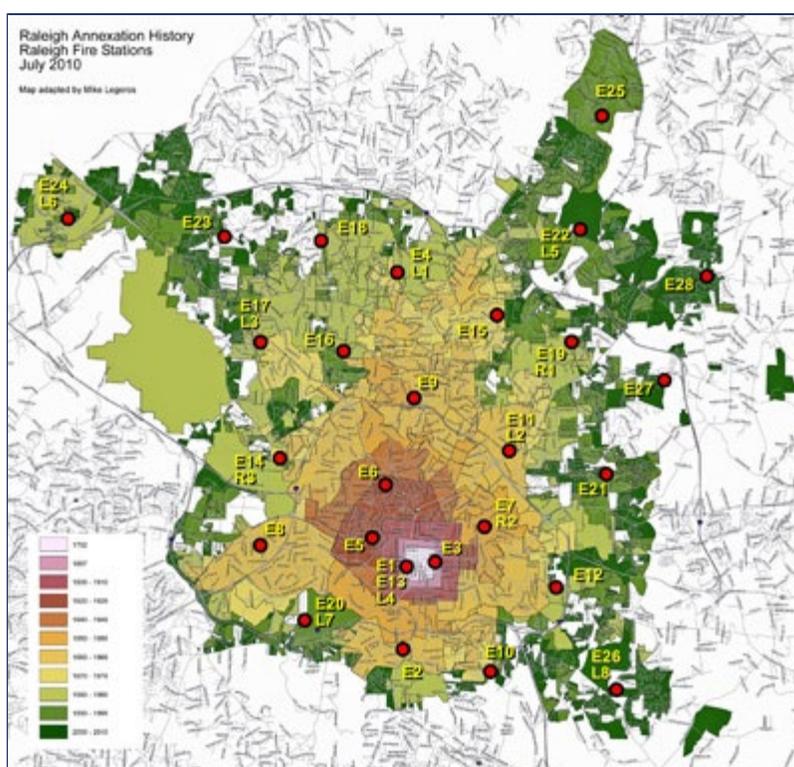
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Annexation Map + Fire Stations

08/23/10 84 W, 1 I - + 11 - 7

From the Department of Too Much Free Time, here's some Monday fun with maps. This is a [city annexation history map](#)-- largest size-- adapted by Yours Truly to include fire station locations, and engine and ladder company assignments. Same will be added to my [Raleigh Fire Department timelines](#), and a new page for 2010 to present. Gotta keep current! ([See this page](#) for a conventional map, with all stations and units.) Click below enlarge, or [see a really large version!](#)



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On The Runway

08/23/10 53 W, 1 I - + 15 - 7

As photographed from the observation deck at Raleigh-Durham International Airport, and several minutes after mutual aid units cleared. Commuter jet with apparent mechanical issues. Alarm time about 8:10 p.m. Raleigh Fire, Cary EMS, Six Forks EMS, and Wake County EMS units dispatched as Alarm One response. Click to enlarge:



Nice pic. Close call

CFR106A - 08/24/10 - 07:41

With Mo'ville so close to the airport why are they not apart of alarm one calls? I think they come on alarm two and higher. Anyone know?

Spanky - 08/24/10 - 11:41

MFD is dispatched if the run calls for them and where on airport grounds the call is. On fire alarms and Aircraft alarms, Raleigh Fire has the call with E-24, L-6, E-23. If L-6 is out, MFD L-2 comes before RFD L-3 and so forth. It really all depends on the nature and location. The only constant is the first alarm assignment with RFD units goes to CFR, the rest head to staging.

Its the same question as to why RFD Battalion 3 gets called to Fire Alarms at the terminals, when Battalion 4 is miles closer. The CAD sees the address and sends Bn-3 up I-40 to RDU or some odd thing. Never made sense to me the entire time I was in the mix...and that my friend was a long time ago and lasted a long time.

Maybe Mr. Legeros here can get the current RDU CFR run card and post it for blogging sake?

Low Light - 08/24/10 - 21:49

Also MFD is on the opposite side of the airport from where CFR is and the staging zone for alarms is, DHFD actually is closer than MFD to this area hence why when E-23 or E-24 is out a DHFD pumper fills the gap.

Closer - 08/24/10 - 22:13

Let me see if I can a copy of the RDU run card. My copy is some years old, <http://legeros.com/scanner/scanner-cfr.s..>

Legeros - 08/25/10 - 06:51

On this photo you have RDU CFR-2, RDU CFR-1, RDU OPS and the jet is a 135 out of NY

CFR106A - 08/30/10 - 12:57

Four Lanes Blocked

08/26/10 47 W, 1 I - + 8 - 7

Here's a good picture of yesterday's vehicle accident in Durham that closed all four lanes of Interstate 85 near Duke Street. Chuck Liddy took the picture that was posted in [this News & Observer article](#). Click to enlarge:



Chuck Liddy/News & Observer photo

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

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

Hillsborough Street, 1981

08/26/10 105 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

Here's another vintage fire photo. August 8, 1981. Campus Launderette at 2114 Hillsborough Street. Fire spread to the I Play Games arcade and a North Carolina State University Agricultural Extension Service workshop. Things to notice in the photo. There's the old Mack/Baker platform raised in the rear of the buildings. The tiller truck parked on the street shows its original all-red paint style, and before the covered jumpseat was added behind the cab. Police officer is wearing a safety vest, good for him. And there's a sign for Arthur Murray Dance Studios. What else do you notice? Click once or twice to enlarge:



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This Morning's Fire at Fort Bragg

08/26/10 135 W, 1 I - + 8 - 7

[The Fayetteville Observer posted this photo](#) of the barracks under construction that burned at Fort Bragg today. Seven (or eight, as some news agencies are reporting) firefighters were injured in the blaze that was reported about 10:20 a.m. and was reportedly started by rooftop welders. They suffered heat exhaustion, and were transported to Womack Army Medical Center and Cape Fear Valley Medical Center for treatment. Some 60 firefighters and 17 trucks were on scene, including Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base, Fayetteville, Spring Lake, Eastover, Stoney Point, Westarea, Benhaven, Cotton, and Pearces Mill fire departments. Two aerial streams from FFD and SLFD flowed on the three-story, 27,000 square-foot structure that's about 50 percent complete. The base's aerial truck was out of service. The fire was controlled in about 90 minutes.



Fayetteville Observer photo

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Wake County Fire Training Twitter

08/27/10 90 W - + 14 - 3

The county Fire Services Division has hopped aboard the Twitter train. This week they announced that the Wake County Fire Training [Twitter](#) account has been placed in service: <http://twitter.com/wakefiretrain>. They've selected this social media tool to deliver specific information about fire training in a timely manner. They'll be posting current and future training events, class cancellation notices, and other general information as often as possible. This augments their normal communications methods. Contact [Fire Training Director Ricky Dorsey](#) for more information. Tweet, tweet.

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Race Cars, Tow Trucks, Git-R-Done

08/28/10 413 W, 1 I - + 15 - 14

Went to the races last night. Wake County Speedway, which is just a handful of miles south of town on Simpkins Road. Says [their web page](#), the track was built in 1962, was paved at the end of the 1986 season, and has been operating for 48 consecutive years. That's a lot of races!

In May, the *Independent Weekly* [published a nifty profile](#) of the place and the drivers therein. By writer Bob Geary. The racing is in multiple classes, from four-cylinder stockers (no engine modifications allowed) to highly-charged super late models.

Mr. Blogger paid an early visit, early in the evening. Before the practice runs had started. With cameras, of course. Pretty nifty all around. Definitely need to visit a few more local tracks, as well as at least one NASCAR event.

Back in the day there was a track in Raleigh, southwest of the present intersection of Atlantic Avenue and New Hope Church Road. Was built in the mid 1950s and demolished by the late 1960s. Here's an [old map showing same](#). (And didn't we blog the transcription of a fatal racing accident there, couple years back?)

There were some responders standing by last night, as well a wrecker crew. Below is one of the two trucks that serve the speedway. Make and model, anyway? Though that push bar probably isn't OEM, LOL. Click to enlarge:



Guess it's no surprise that the voice of the *Cars* movie character 'Mater played through my head all evening. That was an anthropomorphized tow truck as voiced by comedian Larry the Cable Guy. His catchphrase is "git-r-done." Here's the [Wikipedia entry](#) on said phrase, and it's suitably droll:

The phrase "git-r-done" or "get 'er done" (or "git er done") is a southern United States colloquialism meaning to finish an action, to get the job done. It is also used in the Canadian province of Newfoundland.

The phrase can be found, published in the late 1800s, in some of Joel Chandler Harris' Uncle Remus stories. The phrase has become more widely known through Daniel Whitney's title character in Larry The Cable Guy, as both a catchphrase and book title spelled "Git-R-Done", with the company Git-R-Done Productions.

There is a vodka cocktail called a "Get 'er Done" made with grenadine syrup and citrus soda, added to vodka.

See also Round tuit - a pun on "get around to it"

And here the pictures, <http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/2010-0..>

Legeros - 08/28/10 - 09:40

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Guys on a Roof at Night

08/29/10 584 W, 9 I - + 12 - 22

Vertical ventilation was performed at this morning's house fire at 709 Coventry Court. Engine 9 arrived at a one-story, wood-frame, vinyl-sided structure with 1,246 square-feet. Built 1976. Heavy smoke coming from the front of the structure. By the time they stretched their lines, fire was showing from the front. At a subsequent point in time, ladder company personnel cut a hole in the roof. Below is a picture of same. The alarm time was about 5:15 a.m. Units on scene included E9, E16. E4, E15, L1, R1, B1, B_, C10, C20, A1, C5, EMS 3, EMS 12_, EMS 12_, M9_, D4, T1. Click to enlarge:



Now let's talk about the shot. The subjects are on a roof. The photographer is on the street, and maybe ten feet away from the curb. The camera is a Canon Digital Rebel XT, with a 70-200mm f4.0 L lens. That is, a telephoto lens with sufficient focal length to "see" what's happening. The problem is the amount of light. Though the halogens are blazing on several pieces of apparatus, it's still questionable if there's enough available light to make the picture happen. That is, a minimally or non-blurry picture.

What about using the flash, you ask? Probably out of the question. There won't be enough light to fully saturate the subjects; instead, just their reflective stripes will blaze, and everything else will be rendered dark. Heck, even if the photographer up there with firefighters, using the flash would be a tricky proposition. The output of the flash would have to be "dialed down." But I digress, and not before thinking of lyrics from *Fiddler on the Roof*. Change "fiddler" to "photographer" and there's your idea for a new, hit musical.

Back to shooting. Here are the camera settings that were used, notably Program AE (Auto Exposure). That's P on the settings dial:



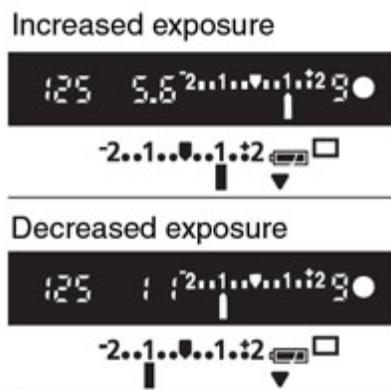
ISO setting of 1600, the highest that my camera will allow. That's the bottom option on this menu:



And this Exposure Compensation button, which reduces or increases the exposure:



Hold that button while turning a dial, and you see something like this, as the camera manual tells:



For this photo, the dial was turned all the way to the left, for maximum decreased exposure compensation. Meaning, the shutter would snap as fast as possible, based on what the camera was calculating for aperture and shutter speed. (Many others simply control those settings directly, using Shutter-Priority, Aperture-Priority, or Manual Exposure camera modes. I am still learning said settings, so this is my present method.)

Stood very still, held the camera very tight, and began shooting. And continued shooting. Dozen. Two dozen. Three dozen. And more. Why so many? Because, again, there's really not enough light. By taking so many versions of the same shot, I stand a reasonable chance that the camera will catch the firefighters during a moment that they are not moving. Or barely moving. Because when there's not enough light, movement causes blurring.

Here's everything that I shot. What was called a "contact sheet" back in the day. Click to enlarge:



And out of those, there were really blurry ones:



And some minimally blurring ones:



And, finally, one least-blurry one. The keeper. This one you can click to enlarge:



And there you have it. Sunday morning photography school.

Time for breakfast.

Then re-read this thing and probably change a few things.

I actually like the blurry ones. Shows movement. Gives a sense of "in the trenches" photography.

Joliet Jake - 08/29/10 - 13:22

Thanks. I think there's good blur and bad blur. The former is more defined, maybe a foreground object or person that's blurred and in motion, but against a more focused background. The latter is just that. Too much blur, too seemingly out of focus. In my opinion.

Legeros - 08/29/10 - 13:42

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Last Night's House Fire in Holly Springs

08/29/10 108 W, 1 I - + 12 - 4

Or, as this post was originally titled, whoa. Speaking of house fires, Thomas Babb snapped this strong photo that's [been posted by WRAL](#), from last night's house fire in Holly Springs on Stone Barn Circle. As it happens, Mr. and Mrs. Blogger had been in town just an hour earlier. Oh well. Recalling the radio traffic, Battalion 1 was first on scene, and found fire showing from the attic above the garage of a two-story, wood-frame structure. Units on scene included Holly Springs Engine 1, Ladder 1, and Apex Engine 4, Ladder 4. Readers, feel free to add more. Good picture!



Thomas Babb/WRAL photo

Sounded like the guys made a great stop on that fire. Good job HSF

DM - 09/01/10 - 12:05

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Car Versus House in Raleigh Again

08/29/10 46 W, 1 I - + 5 - 7

Guess collisions between vehicles and buildings really do happen quite often around here. The latest was this passenger vehicle that struck a house on Chatham Lane early Saturday morning. The driver was transported with injuries.



Steve Worthy/WRAL photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

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Yes

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Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - *Six Forks Fire Department*, < *Six Forks Fire Depart...* > **Box of Tissues**
Photos

Six Forks Fire Department, Photos

08/29/10 51 W, 26 I - + 14 - 8

Since we're diving so deep into the past, let's add some other photographs. These appear on my [outdated history pages](#) of Wake County fire departments. Yeah, yeah, living the past, but the pictures and stories are pretty darn cool. Click to slightly enlarge all:



Finding the orange truck interesting. Going to remember this pic, for use in tne NC chapter when the book project begins ...

Tim B - 05/26/12 - 10:12

Mike – do you know who actually “owns” the photo?

Tim B - 05/26/12 - 10:13

Tim – I have sent that information via e-mail. If memory serves, that’s a scan of a 3×5 snapshot. It will likely produce acceptable (but not much more) results if printed on de-luxe paper in a book. Better would be photos scanned from 8×10 prints, or preferably 35mm film negatives or 35mm slides. You’ll find all this out, of course, if/when/as you embark down the road of authorship and photo research.

Legeros - 05/26/12 - 10:30

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Box of Tissues

08/29/10 40 W, 1 I - + 17 - 6

Let's wrap the afternoon with an artifact from this morning's fire on Coventry Lane. This box of tissue came to the aid of the residents displaced by the blaze. [See more photos](#), or click to enlarge.



Nothin' better than a bunch of snot rags....

Silver - 08/29/10 - 18:05

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Airport 1975 - Emergency Landing

08/29/10 114 W - + 13 - 5

Every Sunday, [Firegeezer](#) posts an episode from *Emergency!* That's good stuff, but we can kick up the cheese factor by sliding from television to film, and from docudrama to disaster movie. Courtesy of YouTube, let's flash back to those Airport movies of the same era, and this gem of a sequence at the end of [Airport 1975](#). Boeing 747 coming hot into Salt Lake City. My inner ten year-old remembers those vintage crash trucks well. And how many character actors can you spot, in addition to the Big Movie Stars? Love the Cadillac ambulances swerving to a stop at the 4:08 mark. Might have to post a few more of these.

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Tunnels to Towers 5K Race in Wake Forest, September 11

08/30/10 236 W, 1 I - + 12 - 10

[The Midtown Raleigh News reported this week](#) on the upcoming second annual local Tunnels to Towers 5K race, where local firefighters will run through the streets of Wake Forest wearing full turnout gear, as a tribute to FDNY Firefighter Stephen Siller, who died in the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center.

As the article notes, Siller was off-duty and heading to play golf when the planes struck the twin towers. He turned around, and headed back to town. Finding the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel closed to traffic, he ran the rest of the way and while wearing 75 pounds of his gear.

His journey inspired an annual Tunnel to Towers run in New York, and that story further inspired a seventh-grade teacher in Franklin County, who organized last year's race. The event is the only Tunnel to Towers run conducted outside of the big city. In addition to local firefighters, any member of the community can participate and walk or run the course.

Registration starts at 6:00 a.m. on September 11, and the race starts at 8:00 a.m. Proceeds will be donated to Stephen Siller "Let Us Do Good" Children's Foundation, the UNC Jaycee Burn Center, and Luggage with Love. For more information about the local event, visit tunneltotowerswf.org. For more about the story of the event, [read the article](#).



Franklin Academy/Midtown Raleigh News photo

Name: (real name preferred)

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Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Knightdale's First Pumper, 1955

08/31/10 105 W, 1 I - + 19 - 16

Here's your morning historical photo. In May 1955, the town of Knightdale received their first fire truck, a 1942 General Motors pumper that was purchased from Navy surplus for \$1,250. The truck was equipped with a 500 GPM pump and a 750 gallon tank. It was the second piece of apparatus for the Knightdale Fire Department. The volunteers had previously used a 1 1/2-ton town truck to transport hose, ladders, and other equipment. The fire department was formed one year earlier, and presumably concurrent with the installation of fire hydrants in town. [Read more about their history](#). Click to enlarge the photo, taken by John Stalvey.



I'm asking because I don't know, and a few others I have asked were not sure: why were fire engines of that vintage and into the mid-sixties ordered with open cabs? Was it ease of entry with turnout gear, visibility, tradition from earlier times, or did it just cost less? Thanks. David

DLH - 09/01/10 - 13:54

Ask and ye shall receive. See this history: <http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog..>

Legeros - 09/02/10 - 13:06

Very interesting! Thanks for the link. That Raleigh LaFrance is truly beautiful. I had missed this discussion earlier, for whatever reason. My volunteer department began with a 42 Oren Ford, obtained from military surplus in Virginia in 1955, but it was closed cab. Windsor, NC has a pretty cool 39 Ford open cab engine.

DLH - 09/02/10 - 20:43

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No

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/ [Textile](#)

Too Fat to Fight

09/01/10 201 W - + 7 - 5

Saw this this week from the *New York Times*, which was [writing about the Army's new physical training program](#). They've spent nearly a decade making the thing, which was rolled out to five posts that handle 145,000 recruits per year. The official goal of the program is to reduce injuries, and better prepare soldiers for combat in rough terrain, such as Afghanistan. It's also an attempt to address a big honkin' problem facing today's military: overweight and unfit recruits.

Reported a report titled "Too Fat to Fight," the proportion of potential recruits who failed their physicals each year rose nearly 70 percent between 1995 and 2008. They cite the cause as a "legacy of junk food and video games, compounded by a reduction in gym classes in many high schools," writes the *Times*. The article talks about the new fitness routines, which are intended to reduce injuries such as stress fractures, and more accurately reflect the physical activities they'll actually perform in combat. Wow, what a concept.

[Read the article](#), and discuss as desired.

In particular, how's the fat factor affecting fire service recruiting? What modifications or revisions have you seen to fire department physical training problems?

I have a relative that was discharged from the service after they tried repeatedly to get him to loose weight. They even had a sepcific program that he had to go to in order to try. Today, he is 315+ pounds.

I have also heard that the US Army is going towards a more overall fitness program, even having Tony Horton of P90X fame help out in order to correct these issues.

So here in the emergency service field. I dont think we have the issue when it comes to recruiting, I think we have the issue with the members we retain. This is NOT pointed to one specific area, (so those with hurt feelings, get over it) but there is an increase in over weight and heavier members of both fire and ems, both paid and volunteer, in this area. Causes? As mentioned in this post – junk food, video games, sedintary life styles...from young to adults. Also, take a poor EMS crew running their 15th call of the day, with no break.... Five Guys or Cookout may be the only option, IF they get to eat.

We also need to look at our examples though too. You cannot expect your compaines, or your staff to be fit and work out if YOU as a supervisor, or as the strong influence in your group, are not in shape or not at least making an effort to be in shape as well.

That said the cooler weather is coming, lets all get out and do more to be physically fit...we all could stand to loose 5-15 lbs.

And yes...I am overweight, just like the rest.

my 2 cents on fat - 09/01/10 - 09:41

FD physical training problems?...I dont see any problem at all.... I think anyone has to do is look at some of the pics you post and it shows just how big some of the people in the fire service are...especially people in higher rank/position which sets a VERY poor example for future recruits..

surprised - 09/01/10 - 15:49

From what I have seen, in the Military fitness standards are not enforced the same the further up in rank you go. I have seen countless Sr. Enlisted and Officer ranks who did not meet any fitness standard nor were they required to participate in the required annual fitness tests and screenings.

The fire service should have the same annually fitness testing. We are required to pass a PAT to get hired, we should have to maintain that standard during our career, NO MATTER WHAT YOUR RANK/LENGTH OF SERVICE.

What is the leading cause of death in the fire service?? We can prevent a lot of heart attacks by promoting a healthier lifestyle and more cardiovascular exercise in the fire service. This isn't something that should be done, its something that NEEDS to be done.

Standards - 09/01/10 - 17:49

I agree with all the comments above. Being proactive about this starts at the top, both the chiefs, but more so at the company officer level. The only way to be a true leader is to get out there and lead, not sit in the radio room and watch as your guys workout and you eat bon bons. There will be days where even your health nut is not motivated to workout, but that is when you as the officer needs to be out there working out and if need be tell them they have to walk the parking lot for 30 mins or however long if need be. Set the standard as the officer and hold yourself and your crew to it.

Like it has been said we all know of those Capt's that you NEVER see with an air pack on or they wear it for show and stand in the yard. The EMS folks that look like they themselves need assistance getting into the back of their own pus bus or that they need a 12 lead.

Lead by example. First in last out doesn't only apply to the fire building

Mike - 09/01/10 - 18:25

Reference to "Standards:"

What branch of the military were you seeing? Were they active duty, reserve, or guard? If ground forces, were they from combat arms units or support units. As a veteran of the Airborne and SF community, I can say there are no fitness issues there regardless of rank right up to a 3-star. During OEF, as all the reserve and guard components were being activated in the army, they were where you saw the out-of-shape soldiers. As with many other aspects in addition to fitness, 1 weekend a month, 2 weeks a year doesn't cut it. Now that they know they might actually have to do their jobs, the reserve components have a much better readiness level. This was not the case soon after 9-11. Totally agree that an annual fitness test for record is necessary, but also periodic tests throughout the year. In the army, you are expected to be able to pass the AFPT at any time. Continuing to comment of the NY times article, the (army) recruitment stations could work harder at initiating fitness programs, especially to recruits who enlist under the delayed entry program. I can't really speak to other service branches since I didn't serve in them, but a friend's comment to me about what his PT was like in the Navy: "What PT?" Maybe things are different now. About leadership, lead by example and lead from the front. I always made sure I could out PT my soldiers, which was not easy when I was 8 to 10 years older than they (hooray for ibuprofen!) but I felt it was my duty to be THE example. I wanted them to see the "old dude" could do it. The ability to do it better was a motivator, and a reason to chew them out for letting me beat them. Ahhh, the memories... :)

bob - 09/02/10 - 10:23

Been there, done that, got the new scar to prove it.

Truth – it's too easy to take care of yourself to not do it. "Push backs" from the table do work, you just need to be motivated (I'm now motivated for the first time in 35 years, but better late than never).

I saw video the other day of the Commandant of the Marine Corps leading Headquarters Company on a run – sure seemed like he, the colonel, and the Sergeant Major were in pretty good shape.

It's a vicious cycle – how do you get an obese, out-of-shape chief to think about imposing standards that, as of today, he can't meet? (HINT – send him to the cardiac surgery unit at WakeMed and see how much fun it is to get the problems fixed!)

37 down – 23 to go!

CH100 - 09/02/10 - 21:18

PS – Wake County EMS Division has implemented a pre-hire physical abilities test that is quite demanding. The test, called MED-PAT, was developed by MEDIC in Charlotte with some physiologists, etc. All job related, but tests aerobic, upper body, grip, and leg/back strength all in six fun-filled minutes.

CH100 - 09/02/10 - 21:19

Careful Chief, you might inspire change in some of us, um, equatorially-challenged folks. Glad you're getting healthier.

Legeros - 09/03/10 - 07:47

Fall Events, Updated

09/01/10 291 W - + 4 - 3

Here's what's happening in the next couple months. Thanks for the comments on the previous version of this topic, which has been deleted. Post or mail corrections or additions to this as desired.

Sep 3 - Fri

- Wake County Emergency Management Warehouse Open House, for public safety employees - 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Sep 7 - Tues

- Wake County Emergency Management Warehouse Open House, for public safety employees - 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Sep 11 - Sat

- 50-210 FD (Johnston) - Fireman's Day - Station 1- 10:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- Brassfield FD (Granville) - BBQ Chicken and Pork Cook
- Epsom FD (Franklin) - Fireman's Day
- [Tunnels to Towers 5K Race](#) - Wake Forest - 6:00 a.m. Registration, 8:00 a.m. Race Time

Sep 13 - Mon

- Wake County Emergency Management Warehouse Open House, for public safety employees - 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Sep 18 - Sat

- Durham Highway FD - Public Safety Day - Leesville High School - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sep 25 - Sat

- Warrenton FD - Fireman's Day

Sep 26 - Sun

- Stony Hill FD - Open House and Fire Prevention Day - Station 1 - 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Selma FD - Dedication of New Apparatus - 1:00 p.m. until whenever

Oct 1 - Fri

- [RAPS Race](#) - Rush Hour Karting, Garner

Oct 2 - Sat

- Garner FD - [Fireman's Day](#) - Station 1

Oct 3 - Sun

- Bay Leaf FD - Open House - Station 1 - 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Oct. 9 - Sat

- Creedmoor FD - Fireman's Day Parade and BBQ Fundraiser - 3:00 p.m. parade, followed by meal at South Granville High School
- Parkwood FD - [BBQ Cook-Off](#) - Station 1 - 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 23 - Sat

- [St. Baldricks at the Flipside](#), Clayton - 3:00 p.m.

Could someone please elaborate what the Wake County Emergency Management Warehouse Open House is?

Thank you in advance!

RPD - 09/01/10 - 21:30

It's an opportunity for fire, ems, law enforcement, etc. to see and become familiar with some of the resources available to them through emergency management. Feel free to email me if you have additional questions. Sorry, no inflatable fun houses or hot dogs at this open house.

EM201 ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/01/10 - 22:31

BYOD? Bring your own dogs?

Another event, for those that want a hike:

Second Annual Rutherford County Firefighter Challenge

Sat., Sep 18

<http://www.isoothermal.edu/conedu/RCFC201..>

Legeros - 09/02/10 - 08:04

Saturday, Sep 18

Rolesville Chamber Cook-Off

FD and public safety members cooking pig, chicken, and ribs in competition

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Beside the Sonic

Saturday, October 2

Morrisville Public Safety Day

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Food Lion Shopping Center, Highway 54

(From memory. Saw the sign yesterday.)

Legeros - 09/07/10 - 07:34

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

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

Hula Hoops on Morgan Street, Updated

09/01/10 212 W, 2 I - + 6 - 3

In the interest of public safety and preventing mass aggravated eye strain among the local emergency responder community, the following posting has been updated with an additional photo. This blogger stands ready to moderate passionate discussion on this incident, including anonymous speculations on the person shown in the foreground and their choice of bikini color therein. Thank you.

Easily the most curious sight recently seen at a fire scene, this bikini-clad hula hooper did some sidewalk spinning earlier this evening beside apparatus parked on Morgan Street. That's District 1 and Air 1 behind the twirling whirler. Or is it a whirling twirler? Units were on scene at a structure fire at the intersection of Morgan and Whitley streets. Trash was discovered burning inside an abandoned warehouse.

After forcing entry, crews quickly extinguished same. If memory serves, ventilation was underway at the time of this photo, after a boarded window was cut open on the building's south side. There's also a second hula hooper not shown, and to the left of the frame. Street clothes on that one. Dispatched about 9:30 p.m., units on scene included Engine 5, Engine 13, Engine 1, ~~Ladder 1~~ Ladder 4, Rescue 2, Battalion 3, Car 10, Car 20, Air 1, EMS 63, District 1. Pictures forthcoming, including maybe another hula shot. Click to enlarge:



a fire downtown, with ladder1 wouldn't that be ladder4.

charlie - 09/02/10 - 02:17

Come on Mike you got to get your lighting better. HaHa

Rod Warner - 09/02/10 - 02:36

That would be quite a long response for Ladder 1 wouldn't?

Stretch - 09/02/10 - 06:07

That would be a stretch, Stretch.

Legeros - 09/02/10 - 07:40

Ladder 1 did respond on Tuesday night to NCSU for the reported hi-rise fire off Thurman Dr.....stretch-ing all them city resources!

Rollin - 09/02/10 - 08:08

who cares about the fire photos...more hula please

nice - 09/02/10 - 08:26

Poor Lt. Merchant... he was severely distracted; but I can see why he staged Air-1 there!

A.C. Rich - 09/02/10 - 11:23

E-8 and E-3 responded on the 2nd (canceled on arrival). Dang it... I was not there long enough to view the "entertainment!"

A.C. Rich - 09/02/10 - 12:50

So now that the topic of "2nd alarm" is being tossed around, lemme' ask this; was this a true 2nd alarm? If so, what ladder went on the 2nd? Orrrrrr, were they a special call? Or, were they on the "working fire dispatch"?

Silver - 09/02/10 - 21:12

not a 2nd alarm Silver. just a W/F. no specials.

lee - 09/02/10 - 21:34

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Airport - The Movie

09/03/10 232 W - + 6 - 2

Friday fun. Here's another motion picture flashback to the days of all-star disaster movies. These are the opening credits from *Airport*, which was released in 1970 and adapted from the bestselling 1968 Arthur Hailey novel. The film is set in Chicago, follows operations at a Chicago airport. There's also a parallel plot involving a passenger who wants to explode a bomb in-flight on a Boeing 707.

We'll start with this [nifty release poster](#), courtesy of the [Wikipedia article](#). Then there's this trailer below, which is an absolute howler. Notice the footage of landing gear at the beginning? That's a B-52 bomber! Calling Dr. Strangelove!

Much of the filming for *Airport* was done in the familiar Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, which was a favorite attraction of moi as a youth in the Twin Cities. Any visit to the airport or even the general vicinity was cause for excitement.

The opening credits for the film are particular exciting, due to (a.) vintage footage of heavy equipment clearing snow and (b.) the exciting main theme by composer [Alfred Newman](#). What a great, rousing, classic-style movie theme! He died before the release of the film, and received a posthumous Oscar nomination, his 45th and a record to date tied with John Williams, for most nominations received by a composer. Enjoy these credits, as well as the first few minutes of the film:

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.

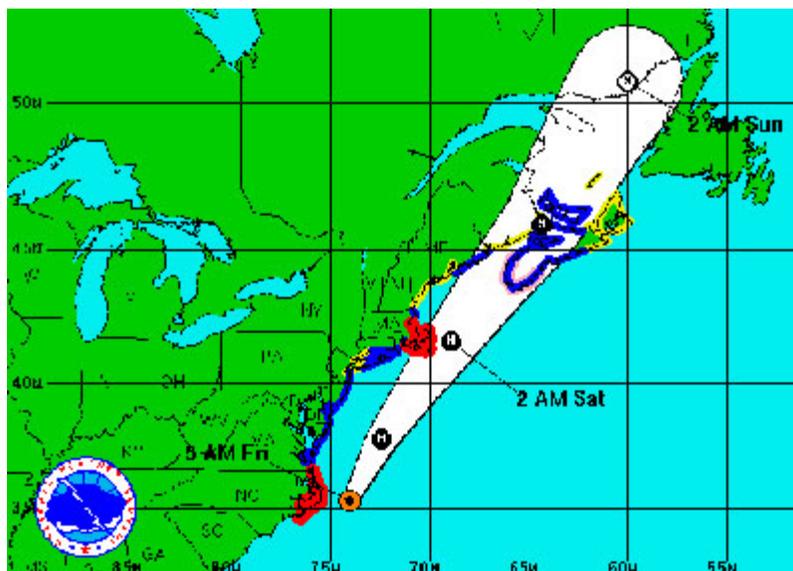
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

Dodged Bullet

09/03/10 56 W, 1 I - + 8 - 4

Take a shot every time someone says that phrase when talking about Big Earl, and the storm's passage to the east of the Outer Banks. Now New England's on high alert. And another storm is churning in the Atlantic. That one's named Fiona. Another crazy name.



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.

1985 American LaFrance at Millers Creek

09/03/10 53 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

Photographer Lee Wilson's on the road this weekend. Forecast calls for sunny apparatus photographs, and other attractions as found in western North Carolina. Here's a nice-looking 1985 American LaFrance at Millers Creek Fire Department in Wilkes County. [See more photos from Lee](#). Click to enlarge:



Lee Wilson photo

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 - *This Afternoon's* « 1985 American LaFranc... » Ladder 1 and Station ... *Second Alarm in Cary*

This Afternoon's Second Alarm in Cary

09/04/10 104 W, 1 I - + 8 - 4

Two alarms at [607 E. Chatham Street](#). Engine 2 arriving at a one-story, wood-frame, six-unit, residential motel, with 2,400 square-feet. Harrison Motel, built 1950. Heavy fire in single unit, with extension to adjoining units. Second alarm requested within minutes. Interior operations with vertical ventilation. Staging on East Chatham Street, with three of four lanes closed by police. Rehab and medical monitoring street-side. Dispatched just after 6:00 p.m. Controlled in about 30 minutes. Units on scene included E2, E1, E3, E4, L1, L3, T6, R2, B1, B2, Western Wake P196 P191, EMS 54, EMS 53, D5, WC1. Photos forthcoming.



Thanks for the Cary coverage Mike!

fire1983 - 09/04/10 - 21:02

Mike, correction on units... CFD E3 was not on the alarm, and it was WWFR E191 on the box not P196.

and ditto on thanks for the Cary coverage!

and FYI a second alarm in Cary is 1E and 1L. The second brought E1, L3 to this. It would have been E1's 2nd due on the original alarm but they were on an EMS run at the time.

CFP 7021 - 09/05/10 - 10:30

Thanks for the updates! We didn't mention L5 as E20, which was a coverage unit.

Glad I could make it. Here's how my luck was going that day.

Working house fire in Raleigh, couple blocks from my house. Mike was sitting in MACHETE matinee in Cary.

Two alarms in Cary, couple miles from the theater. Mike was leaving the EM warehouse in Gary, having just driven there from the movie!

BUT, upon leaving the Cary fire, dinner was easy to find. Dined at the splendid Indian restaurant across the street from the Circus. Butter chicken on the buffet. Yum.

Legeros - 09/05/10 - 10:51

Ladder 1 and Station 16

09/04/10 129 W, 1 I - + 7 - 3

First Saturday of the month means equipment inspections. That's Ladder 1 getting cleaned at Station 16, relocated for a few weeks during apron work at Station 4. Not the kind worn in the kitchen. Quick, recite the ladder numbers and station locations from memory! No peeking on Mike's web site. Next question, where's the mini-pumper been moved too?

Next question, can this photo be made at any other fire station? Not necessarily. Station 16 faces east, which makes for perfect lighting about mid-morning. There are no trees to cast shadows, either. Station 11 has quite the foliage, for example. Even apron length factors into the equation. There's enough room for the ladder and engine to park in staggered fashion. Can't do that in front of, say, Station 1. Click to enlarge:



The Mini's at 17. Still dont know which one's Ladder 8 though. And though the sun's great for lighting, it makes that bay HOT for the most of the day. All good though, I didnt take this job to be comfortable.

Jake T. - 09/04/10 - 11:29

I believe MP1 is currently at Sta.18.

RescueRanger - 09/04/10 - 14:03

MP-1 is at Sta. 18.....L-1 with E-4, L-2 with E-11, L-3 with E-17, L-4 with E-1 / E-13, L-5 with E-22, L-6 with E-24, L-7 with E-20, L-8 with E-26. And for everyone else, with the 35 more firefighters they hope to hire (hiring process has begun Sept 2nd) where will the new L-9 (ALF reserve currently L-4) be placed? Rumor mill had it housing with E-27 in the initial just to get it in service... with hopes to move it with E-12 some day.

food for thought - 09/04/10 - 20:53

I believe the plan, as of two weeks ago, L-9 will go with E-27 just to get it in service. Then, it can be moved around later on.

Silver - 09/04/10 - 23:02

And...I know a ladder is desired in 12's area. I wouldn't be surprised to see L-10, when it goes in, to go over that way. Rather than just shifting the existing nine around.

Silver - 09/04/10 - 23:11

Oh, and 14's area too. Pretty big gap between L-3 and L-7 to pick up around 14's area, Rex, and a little bit of 8's area. One thing the Chief

wanted when he first came here was more Ladders and an emphasis on "true truck work". Seems it's coming to fruition; could you imagine ten Ladder companies in the city, with a better than 3 to 1 ratio (engines to ladders)!?!?

I just hope that when the 9th goes in we can start sending two on fires like was originally planned....get in position fast, get in position early!!

Silver - 09/04/10 - 23:20

I've also heard the 9th ladder will go to 27 temporarily. I've also heard after some station remodeling and/or additions it would go to #15 and L1 will move to #18 after the bay door height increase. HazMat 2 would go to #28. L3 and R3 would swap after a remodel at #14. L8 is still supposed to move to #12 after the new station construction.

RescueRanger - 09/05/10 - 10:57

Whew! Glad you guys got it all figured out!

Newbie ff - 09/05/10 - 13:13

Where is R-3 right now with the apron being redone at 14 as well?

Mike - 09/05/10 - 13:36

They're with Engine 6...

Silver - 09/05/10 - 14:05

Sit back Newbie and relax. I can assure you the information that I throw out is factual, not speculation/ rumor mill spreading. This is why I'm happy to put my name down, just be sure to clean those toilets!

Silver - 09/05/10 - 14:27

It's good to see us making some progress in "these times." You my define "these times" as you wish.

A.C. Rich - 09/06/10 - 09:18

Amen A.C.

Silver - 09/06/10 - 12:10

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

[/ Textile](#)

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Caption This Photo

09/04/10 47 W, 1 I - + 8 - 3

Seen in the parking lot of a sign shop and other stores on Pleasant Valley Road in Raleigh. That explains why we've seen other ambulances getting labelled at that location. Because there's a sign shop there. Duh.



I think this is the new Granville Health Systems-EMS Division "blue/green" logo taking shape at the rear of the truck. "Granville Medical Center" now runs the EMS system and their corporate color scheme is exactly the same as the new decals here. Maybe someone else can clarify.

A.C. Rich - 09/04/10 - 22:58

Thats correct AC, this is one of Granville County's ems units. Granville Medical Center took over EMS on July 1, 2010. And it looks as if it will be matching the new fleet pretty soon. Well not new trucks but new color schemes shall I say.

Paramedic - 09/05/10 - 08:20

Thought so. Wife saw one at the S.Granville HS F-Ball game the other night (daughter's in the SGHS band). Nice looking scheme! I hope the new leadership works out well!

A.C. Rich - 09/05/10 - 11:06

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Mystery Object

09/04/10 29 W, 1 I - + 5 - 5

What the heck is this thing, as seen street-side in downtown Tarboro today, on an older building and about three-feet above the ground? Click to enlarge:



Mike , If I had to make a guess I would say the locking system for a security gate

rln ([Email](#)) - 09/04/10 - 22:30

It threw me for a while then it came to me! The writing on the device says Anchor Supply and on the sides is Awnings and Tents. Since it is located on the front of the building I would say it was the device that a hand crank fits into for opening and closing the awning. The awning is probably long gone but they saved this piece of history.

stretch - 09/05/10 - 00:15

I am pretty sure that stretch has it right on. The square shaft is just like many I have seen elsewhere.

Doppler - 09/05/10 - 09:37

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Tarboro Hand Engine

09/04/10 137 W, 1 I - + 5 - 6

At least three dozen hand engines have [served in the Old North State](#), from a pair of British-built engines delivered to Salem in 1785, to the Howe hand pump delivered to Smithfield in 1906. Precious few appear to have survived, but this beauty's on display at Tarboro Fire Station 1.

Pulled and powered by hand. Make, model, and year are unknown. 'Twas photographed on a day trip to tour the town's large historic district. Were Mr. Blogger thinking straight, he would have looked at little closer, and seen if he could see a manufacturer's plate. Or maybe the thing was local- or shop-built?

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps indicate that the town had a hand engine by 1886. Is this the same one? Perhaps an intrepid reader can assist with additional information. 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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Campus Fire Safety Community Service Project Launches in Chapel Hill on Thursday, Sep. 9

09/05/10 337 W - + 8 - 7

North Carolina Governor Bev Perdue is scheduled to join the [Michael H. Minger Foundation](#), North Carolina family members of students who have been killed in campus fires, students, university and fire officials in Chapel Hill on Thursday morning to kickoff a national campus fire safety community service project.. The location is the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity House at 108 West Cameron Avenue, site of the fire that killed five students and injured three on Mother's Day in 1996.

Students from North Carolina colleges and universities will partner with local fire departments, and go into their communities and help with projects to improve fire safety for senior citizens, children, low-income residents, and students. The event coincides with [National Campus Fire Safety Month](#). Read more from this [social media release](#), which my automatic Google alert on "Raleigh Fire" found. Guess we'll see coverage in the news this week.

Event information:

- Thursday, September 9, 2010
- 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity House
108 West Cameron Avenue
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Scheduled speakers include:

- Gail Minger, president of the Michael H. Minger Foundation. Mrs. Minger lost her son, Michael, in an arson fire in 1998 in a residence hall at Murray State University in Kentucky.
- Bev Perdue, North Carolina Governor
- Dan Jones, Fire Chief, Town of Chapel Hill
- Bonnie Woodruff, parent, who lost her son, Ben, in the fire at the University of North Carolina's Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity House in 1996.
- Kinsey Pilkington, family member, who lost his brother, Cody, in an off-campus fire in Raleigh in 2005. Cody was attending North Carolina State University.

Participants include representatives from:

- University of North Carolina
- Chapel Hill Fire Department
- University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- Greensboro Fire Department
- Raleigh Fire Department
- Wake Forest University
- Winston-Salem Fire Department
- North Carolina Office of the State Fire Marshal
- University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- Michael H. Minger Foundation
- North Carolina family members of students killed in campus fire
- Other university and fire officials.

Raleigh Hiring For Firefighters

09/05/10 294 W - + 5 - 4

The city is again hiring for firefighters. The position of Firefighter-- #143-10 and with a salary of \$32,673-- was posted this past week and closes October 22. Here's the [job posting](#) on the city web site, along with information on the [seven step recruitment process](#).

You can [download the employment application](#), or get one at locations including any [Raleigh fire station](#), the Keeter Training Center (105 Keeter Center Drive), or the Personnel Department office (222 W. Hargett Street). And be sure to follow the required instructions.

There's also an advertisement in today's *News & Observer* classified section that repeats the above information, and notes that a pair of open houses are scheduled in the coming weeks.

On Sunday, September 19, and Sunday, October 10, and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on both days, all [Raleigh fire stations](#) will hold open houses for people interested in learning more about the fire department. As noted above, they can pick up employment applications as well.

Also note that the Keeter Training Center will be open on four Saturdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., to accept applications: September 25, October 2, October 9, and October 16.

Today's classified advertisement also notes that practice sessions for both the physical agility test and the written Reading Comprehension Test (RCT) will be held in November at the Keeter Training Center. Dates and times are November 10-13, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Participation in these practice sessions is strongly encouraged.

What else should we mention? Once employed, firefighter candidates attend a six-month recruit academy that teaches skills in firefighting and emergency medical care, to put it simply. After graduation, they're assigned to a fire station, and an engine or ladder company. And the adventure and career-long continued learning begins.

Good luck to everyone!

As a young volunteer looking to soon become a career firefighter, I have noticed a difference in starting pay in Wake County alone. Who has the best pay and more importantly, is it worth the extra pay in the long run?? Looks like it may better to get paid less initially than get stuck somewhere later that will be eventually taken over by a bigger city department. Can anyone advise or offer any experience?

CJ - 09/05/10 - 14:02

If you want to be a fireman, apply wherever is hiring. With the economy the way it is, it isn't time to be picky, most places are laying off. You aren't going to get rich doing this job, but, you can always supplement your income on your days off if you choose.

Some cities take applicants at age 18, others at 21. Apply to all of them. And, if you haven't done so already, get a degree.

Silver - 09/05/10 - 14:14

Can anyone tell me if credit score is a factor when getting hired with a department?

Credit Krunch - 09/06/10 - 11:00

@Credit – I can't speak with knowledge of the fire service, but it is for law enforcement, as they do credit checks as a way of considering "would this guy take a bribe". I'm fairly sure they check your credit history and I KNOW they check you criminal history when you get to a certain point after you apply. I'm not suggesting that it's a determining factor, but I would do everything I could to rebuild your rating if it's poor. Most people understand that youthful lack of knowledge and today's economy have a large bearing on what someone's financial situation is. I'm sure someone else can speak on this, but I would encourage you to apply if it's what you truly want to do, as it's a good job and something to be proud of when someone asks what you do.

Kudos for your inquiry.

Duda - 09/07/10 - 10:05

From what I understand, the city only does credit checks on positions with the potential of purchasing items (those who receive procurement cards, etc).

BC - 09/07/10 - 13:15

Krunch unlike some law enforcement, NO they do not check credit! Driving record and criminal back grounds ar done by HR if you make it that far! All i can say you better be running, running, running! Good luck!

Jason Lane - 09/07/10 - 18:55

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Extra Alarmer, Minneapolis Fire Department, The Thanksgiving Fire of 1982

09/05/10 1399 W, 6 I - + 18 - 12

There's a nifty newsletter that's published by the [Extra Alarm Association of the Twin Cities](#). Called *The Extra Alarmer*, it's a 12-page piece in black and white, that's published every other month. They've been publishing for over 28 years. [Learn more](#), and see a sample issue. I've been subscribing for a few years now, and it's a great for staying in touch with happenings in my hometown.



In the latest issue, Co-Publisher Steve Skaar continues his recollections of 50 years of fire buffing with memories of the Minneapolis Big One, AKA the Thanksgiving Day Fire of 1982. Here's hopefully a coherent summary of what happened, from Skaar's account, Google News Archives, and other sources on the web.

November 25, 1982. Thanksgiving Day. Just after 5:00 p.m. Minneapolis Fire Department dispatched to Box 110 Bravo, at former site of Donaldson's department store, six stories and under demolition. One-third of the structure is still standing. Engines 10, 6, 1, Ladders 1, 11, and Battalion 1 on the initial dispatch at 17:06 hours.

Arrive units find what Skaar describes as a "huge outdoor debris fire" that's burning into the remaining sections of the Donaldson's structure. That building is adjacent to the 16-story Northwestern National Bank building. The three engines "each dumped their tanks through their deluge pipes" as crews worked to connect to the nearby hydrants. Seven minutes, a second alarm is called, as crews aren't able to knock down the flames. Two engines and third ladder are dispatched, along with another Battalion Chief, the Deputy Chief, the Mobile Command Post, and the salvage unit.



Wells Fargo Museum

Six minutes later, a third alarm was summoned. Fourth and fifth alarms followed quickly, along with four engines special called, along with Hose 10 and Big Red. The latter was an ex-Army 1958 Walter crash truck that MFD placed in service in 1976 as Foam-Hose 1. It was rebuilt with a 1500 GPM pump, and outfitted with a pair of big honkin' Stang monitors in the rear. [We blogged about that truck](#), after photographing same in Minneapolis a few years back. [See those photos](#).

There were fire doors between the Donaldson's building and the bank building, located in the basement and on the fifth floor. But they'd been burned through, as the fire reached an estimated temperature of 1,600 degrees. Flames spread to the bank building, and soon fires were visible inside the 16-story structure. Exposure protection was directed to the second-floor skyways, which were enclosed pedestrian bridges that connected the bank building with other structures. As Skaar recalls, "windows on buildings across the street cracked and some broke out from the intense heat."



Wells Fargo Museum

He cites stunning statistics. Minneapolis engines pumped 39 separate lines. At the height of the incident, 17 of 20 the city's engines, and eight ladders were working. Six aerials supplied ladder pipes (1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 11), and master streams were deployed from Foam-Hose 1, Hose 10, and others. Total of 15 on that. Alas, they didn't stop the spread of the fire through the building. However, all exposures were protected, and the fire did not spread into other structures. An even greater conflagration was averted. (Reported the next day's news reports, smoke penetrated the J.C. Penny store and parts of the IDS tower, the tallest building i the city.)

The department was a bit short-staffed due to the holiday, recounts Charles Riggs in this [Guided by History blog entry](#). They were joined 50 off-duty members, who responded to the scene. All off-duty personnel were recalled that day, either to the scene, or staff other stations. Three St. Paul companies also assisted in coverage, reported the news, and equipment from Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport was brought to the scene.

Fire Chief Clarence Nimmerfroh was out of town, Skaar recalls, and Asst. Chief Allan Wold took command at the scene. In addition to spare

apparatus called to the fire, crews brought Ladder 11's new Sutphen tower to the scene from the repair shops. An interior attack on the bank building was started by 8:00 p.m., recounts Riggs.

The fire was placed under control nearly exactly 12 hours later at 04:59 hours Friday morning. Numerous pieces of apparatus as well as hose lines and firefighters were covered in thick coats of ice. The temperature that night was around five degrees, recorded by the Farmer's Almanac. Ten firefighters were treated at nearby Hennepin County Medical Center. Nine were released, but one suffered chest pains and was kept for observation in the coronary care unit.

The blaze covered a full square-block of the Nicollet Mall, which is a 13-block pedestrian mall that's the main shopping area down town. Guests in the nearby Marquette Inn, located inside the IDS Tower, were evacuated.

Crews would remain on scene for several days. The damage totaled \$100 million, which was a jaw-dropper, given, as Skaar notes, the annual fire loss in the city at the time was in the \$5-6 million range. Safe deposit boxes and securities vaults were not damaged, reported the bank's president the next day.

The building was built in 1930, by the architecture firm of Graham, Anderson, Probst & White. The structural damage from the fire was so severe, that the building was demolished. It was imploded on March 11, 1983. The building collapsed into a pile of rubble in just 15 seconds.

Investigators would subsequently determine the cause of fire as arson. They arrested two boys, aged 12 and 13. The two had crawled through a hole in the snow fence around the property, and climbed up the debris pile to reach the open second floor. They played for a time and then ignited a butane torch, which started the fire.

Photographs



Wells Fargo Archives



Wells Fargo Archives



Wells Fargo Museum

Dispatch Details

From the [Minneapolis Extra Alarm Fires Details Chart](#)

Thursday, November 25, 1982 - 5-5 Alarm

5:00 p.m. - Box 110B - 6th Street & Nicollet Avenue - Commercial Buildings (Under Demolition/Occupied)

Time	Alarm	Engines	Ladders	Squads	Others	Chiefs
1706	Telephone Alarm	10-6-1	1-11			Bat 1
1713	2-2 Alarm	16-4	4		Mobile Command Post, Salvage	Bat 4, Deputy Chief
1719	3-3 Alarm	11-8	9			Asst. Chief
1733	4-4 Alarm	7	5			
1735	5-5 Alarm	2	3			
1815	Sp. Call	19-21			Big Red, Hose 10	
1844	Sp. Call	14				
1942	Sp. Call	13				
2215	Relief	27-20	7			
2236	Relief	17-15	2			

-- Nov. 26, 1982 --

0021	Relief	12-28	
0130	Relief		6
0136	Relief		10
0144	Relief	Spare 1-Spare 19	8
0304	Relief	Spare 6	
0407	Relief	Spare 4	
0422	Relief	Spare 21	
0459	Fire Under Control		
0745	Relief	10	
0800	Relief	6	
0822	Relief	2-4	
1040	Relief	28-21	
1110	Relief	14	
1140	Relief	Spare 21	
1239	Relief		6
1317	Relief	8-1	7
1522	Relief	11	
1625	Relief	20-17	
1649	Relief		1
1930	Relief		9
1945	Relief	15	
2200	Relief	16	
2245	Relief	27	8-2
	-- Nov. 27, 1982 --		
0050	Relief	27	
0146	Relief	7	5
0446	Relief	2-4	
0548	Relief	11	
	0759 Nov. 27 to 0530 Nov. 28	Four Engines	Four Ladders
	0755 to 1417 on Nov. 28	Six Engines	Three Ladders
	-- Nov. 29, 1982 --		
1803	Relief	10	
	-- Nov. 30, 1982		
0818	Relief (last)	10	

Sources:

- *The Blade* (Toledo), December 25, 1982
- *The Extra Alarmer*, Vol. 37, No. 2, June-July 2010
- *The Lewiston* (Maine) Daily Sun, November 27, 1982
- *Spokane Chronicle*, November 26, 1982
- [Thanksgiving Day Fire, 1982 - Guided By History Blog](#)
- [Weather History for Minneapolis](#)
- [Wells Fargo History Museum](#)

Dear MSP fire Department, I was at this fire back in 1982! I remember this fire vividly, It started on the Southeast corner of the JC Penny building and progressed rapidly to the northwest of the complex!

I and my brother were in the Observation deck of the IDS building watching this fire. I remember while watching this fire happening the two buildings that encompassed the square block, (looking down from atop the IDS), the overhead walk ways above the streets billowing with smoke and also watching it devouring the JC Penny's building.

Upon my view from my stand point, the JC Pennys' building was a square structure, but along side JC's was the NW Bank with the icon of the Weather Ball that had stood for many of years. This weather ball when traveling into Minneapolis it gave the us the a clue of what the weather was forecast within the day or two!

I remember watching this fire and again encompassing the NW Bank and watching the Weather Ball exploding!

What was very strange about this day is that there was no wind, nothing! As I was watching this catastrophe happening the embers of the fire were streaming straight up. The sparks, embers were again, billowing up to and above the IDS Building, it was so unreal, but true! after about 2 hours the Chief of the Minneapolis Fire Department came up to observation deck and ordered every out, pronto! They were scared that this fire could escalate further!

I swear to God this happened! This is my testimony!

The next day I went back to the IDS Building and took a Photograph of the burt out Building(s)from atop of the IDS!

I still have the Picture from the next day that I took from the IDS Building!

It was a very cold day and night that Nov. 25th of 1982, There were Icicles everywhere!

Deeply and truthfully, Douglas Graham

Douglas Graham ([Email](#)) - 11/28/11 - 07:56

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.

Raleigh Ladders, Where Are They Now?

09/05/10 238 W, 7 I - + 8 - 3

Question from a reader, does anyone maintain a list of where Raleigh apparatus has ended up, after removed from service from the city? In particular, the aerials? Yours Truly has kept an occasional eye on such information, but needs to compile things in a ready format. We'll work on that. Such as adding to our [apparatus register](#). For now, let's see if we can track the former ladders and towers:

- [1916 American LaFrance tiller](#)
Tractor replaced 1939. Disposition unknown.
- [1939/1916 American LaFrance tiller](#)
Retired by 1974. Sold 1980 or later. Presently privately owned in Harnett County, after decades of outdoor storage by prior owner.
- [1958 American LaFrance tiller](#)
Tractor replaced 1980. Subsequently stored outside at training center. Scrapped in or after 1989, which is what's recalled from attended the academy that year.
- [1961 American LaFrance ladder](#)
Placed in reserve 1990. Removed from service ? Last seen some/many years ago in a farmer's field in Hargett County.
- [1977 Mack/Baker platform](#)
Retired 2007. Sold as surplus, bought by Barnwell, SC. Last known as active apparatus.
- [1979 Mack/1958 American LaFrance tiller](#)
Retired 1999. Sold as surplus, bought by private owner in Carteret County. Soon sold to Wendell Fire Department. Sold 2006 to Civietown Fire Department in Brunswick County. Subsequently sold and last seen somewhere in South Carolina, correct?
- [1986 Seagrave ladder](#)
Retired 2006. Sold as surplus (same year?). Last seen somewhere around the state. Who recalls?



Man, the Baker and the Seagrave are two rigs I wish we refurbished and kept.

Silver - 09/05/10 - 14:31

I looked at the Barnwell SC Fire Department website and there is no Mack/Baker list as in service. The only truck company they have is a service truck. Only one other FD website in the county.

stretch - 09/05/10 - 21:35

I thank the 77 Mack is still at Civietown FD, was back in December when I was at their station. It was out of service and for sale at that time.

car3550 - 09/05/10 - 22:11

The Mack CF Aerialscope at Civietown is not a former Raleigh truck. It came from Washington State, King County District 26 to be exact. The Mack MC tiller was long gone when I visited their station in the summer of 2009.

BFD1151 - 09/06/10 - 10:41

I believe the 1986 Seagrave ladder is the one I shot sitting on the side of Interstate 26 in Calhoun County, SC. See it here:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/bcfd424> look under Relics Demos and its the first truck.

[bcfd424] - 09/06/10 - 12:15

Yes, that's where I had seen same! Thanks for reminding. Here's a direct link to the photo, <http://picasaweb.google.com/bcfd424/Reli..>

Legeros - 09/06/10 - 12:16

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Raleigh's Macks, Where Are They Now?

09/05/10 224 W, 6 I - + 11 - 3

Next question, where are Raleigh's Mack CF engines these days? Let's go down that list. See this [apparatus register](#) for pics and more information. Numbers are last four digits of serial number. Those sold as scrap were last seen parked outside the training center. They were the workhorses.

- 1970 - #1168 - E15 at 1/E13/E14/E30 - Sold ? For sale in Florida on eBay in 2004.
- 1970 - #1169 - E1/E5/E31 - Sold as scrap 2002.
- 1971 - #1255 - E7/E7/E32 - Sold ?
- 1973 - #1593 - E4/E19/F12/F26/? - Sold ?
- 1973 - #1594 - E5/E10/? - Sold ?
- 1973 - #1595 - E9/E18/? - Sold as scrap 2002.
- 1973 - #1596 - E3/E8/E15/E34 - Sold as scrap 2004.
- 1975 - #1767 - E11/E21/E32/E106 - Sold ?
- 1975 - #1768 - E2/E35/E101 - Sold 2004 to Knightdale PS. Still on roster.
- 1975 - #1769 - E6/E30/E37 - Sold as scrap 2004.
- 1975 - #1770 - E12/E36/T112 - Sold as scrap 2004.
- 1978 - #2004 - E16/E30/E102/E23/? - Refurbished by Pierce 1992. Sold 2005 to Four Oaks FD in Johnston County.
- 1981 - #2175 - E13/E17/E19/E23/E24/? - Sold 2005.
- 1982 - #2197 - E1/E20/E25/E105/E125 - Still owned by department, part of antique fleet.
- 1982 - #2198 - E3/E9/E14/E21/E31/E103/E123 - Sold 2008. Bought by apparatus recycler in Wisconsin.



one of the MAck Engines is out at johnston county recycling on south brightleaf blvd in smithfield. basically scrap metal at this point.

charlie - 09/06/10 - 00:18

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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Tenable Rescue

09/06/10 143 W - + 5 - 9

For your Labor Day discussion, [watch this video from Houston](#)¹. Two-year old footage of a what looks like a fully-involved residential structure. Engine and ladder arrives and hears a man screaming for help in the back room.

They make the rescue, through wall-breaching and with suppression withheld to keep heat and steam off the victim. He was located and removed from the house, and recovered after receiving only minor burns and smoke inhalation.

For your discussion consideration, can this incident be related to residential fires typically seen in our area? How do you evaluate the tenability of rescue in such situations? What training do you do, or can you do, to these (extreme?) cases?

¹While visiting that video site, however, you should probably refrain from clicking on the advertising link for meeting women in your area. Well, at least at work!

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Matchbox Colet K/30 Jaguar

09/06/10 71 W, 1 I - + 9 - 7

Here's the least expected mass-market die-cast fire apparatus model of all time, a Matchbox Real Working Rigs replica of a Colet K/30 Jaguar airport crash truck. Yup, that's a real rig, albeit one that looks straight from a science-fiction film. [Read about the real thing](#), which is equipped with a 1000-1500 GPM pump and a 2000-3000 gallon tank. Now appearing in local stores. Click to enlarge:



That's pretty neat, and REALLY odd! I'll be looking for it on my trips to Tar-jhay and Wally World. And on a weekend trip to the Cary Toys 'R' Us for the little guy, I found the white version of last year's Matchbox Pierce Quantum Ladder truck. Sweet!

Duda - 09/07/10 - 09:52

I would love to see a real one of these operating out at KRDU. The Oshkosh's still get alot of attention when out and about. (And I believe KRDU's Oshkosh's are the hotness). I can only imagine how a Colet would be received!

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/08/10 - 21:53

Found one at my local Target; none at Wally World or K-mart

Gonzo - 10/25/10 - 00:18

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Ferry Versus Yacht

09/06/10 58 W, 1 I - + 6 - 3

[WTVD](#) has posted a couple photos of Saturday night's collision between the Ocracoke Island ferry Carteret and the 35-foot yacht Tony C. Two crew members and two canines were removed from the yacht, and assessed by medical personnel. They received no serious injuries. [This WITN story](#) has additional information as well.



WTVD/USCG 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.

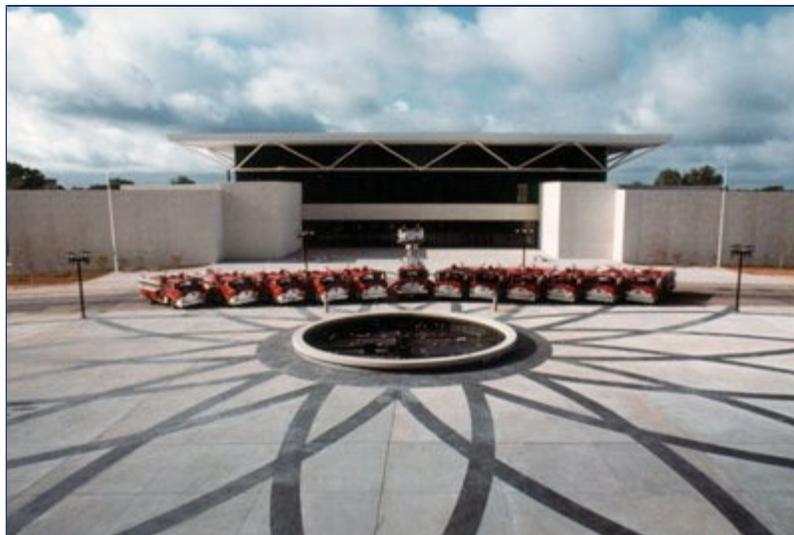
To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

Macks at the Civic Center

09/06/10 112 W, 2 I - + 6 - 6

Speaking of the city's old Mack CF pumpers and platform, these photos are worth presenting. They were taken in August 1977, which was a couple months after the aerialscope was delivered. The Civic Center was also completed that year, and perhaps the picture was made to commemorate both the building's completion and the expanding fleet of Mack fire apparatus. No photographer credit, though it may have been arranged through the Public Affairs office. Seems that I recall seeing similar shots in their collection of photos from that period. The pictures were scanned from small snapshots. Maybe negatives or slides will surface some day. Click to enlarge:



The pictures don't show how they tilted each of the engines. Does anyone know for sure how?

stretch - 09/06/10 - 19:07

I am guessing that they probably arranged the apparatus with the help of the photographer, probably by radio. Directing each truck, one at a time. It's surprisingly challenging positioning multiple pieces of apparatus for such photos. Just ask Lee!

Legeros - 09/06/10 - 19:38

Wonder where that Aerialscope has ended up? Hope it's not rotting in a field somewhere.

Olson - 09/06/10 - 23:15

I dropped BFD a note, asking about its present disposition. Little do folks realize that when they buy old apparatus that they'll be pestered by fire historians for years after!

Legeros - 09/07/10 - 07:31

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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Old 'Scope Serving Well in Barnwell

09/07/10 271 W, 4 I - + 5 - 3

Our friends in Barnwell, SC, pass along photos and an update on Raleigh's old 1977 Mack/Baker aerialscope that they purchased in 2007. The truck's in service and is stored in a special building they built. Since receiving, they had some minor hydraulic work done, replaced the threaded connections to the waterway, and cleaned and re-greased the boom. They've had the paint matched for touch-ups, and are awaiting some work before lettering the rig. With their budget year starting in October, more work is planned.

The truck is designated Tower 101 and carries six SCBAs with spare cylinder, confined-space rescue equipment, rope rescue equipment, positive pressure ventilation fan, two chain saws, forcible entry tools, a generator and lights, etc. They've got a new generator waiting installation, upon completion of a pull-out tray, to replace the old generator. They report that the truck is working well, and has responded upon several calls. One worker to date, when they flowed through a vent opening atop a plant building being salvaged. The truck is also used to fly the flag shown below, as was photographed on September 11 last year. It will fly again this year.

Barnwell is the county seat of Barnwell County, in the southeastern part of the state. Their population was 5,035 in the 2000 census, and their size is 7.8 square miles. The fire department is a combination department with 27 suppression members including a paid staff of four, which consists of a Fire Chief and three Engineers. They operate three engines, the tower, a service truck, and three special-response trailers. [Visit their web site](#). Click the first three photos to enlarge:





It's good to see it again! ...and still in service!

A.C. Rich - 09/08/10 - 22:57

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Brighter Lights

09/08/10 41 W, 1 I - + 5 - 5

No, you're not imagining things. The bay lights in your neighborhood Raleigh fire station really are brighter. They consume less but produce more, and are welcome additions to the previously darker spaces.



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.

Carrboro Opens Station 2

09/08/10 123 W, 1 I - + 8 - 2

[This Durham Herald-Sun article](#) reports that Carrboro Fire Department opened their second fire station Tuesday. Located north of town at [1411 Homestead Road](#), the \$3 million facility will house an engine company with four firefighters. The two-bay building was built on land donated by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. They've leased the lot to the town for 99 years at one dollar per year. The station, which has been 30 years in the making, is equipped with two apparatus bays, a training room, an exercise room, a day room with cushioned chairs (of course), bedrooms, kitchen, and a small patio with picnic table and outdoor grill. [Read more](#), or learn about the [Carrboro Fire Department](#).



Christine T. Nguyen/Herald-Sun 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](#))

Cary Fire Department Recognized For Excellence Worldwide

09/09/10 119 W, 1 I - + 5 - 5

How's that for a headline! The *Cary Citizen* reports this week that the [Cary Fire Department](#) has been again granted international re-accreditation by the [Commission on Fire Accreditation International](#) (CFAI). In June, notes the article, a peer review team conducted an evaluation of the fire department on site, inspecting "every aspect of Cary's fire program, including governance and administration, assessment and planning, goals and objectives, financial resources, programs, physical resources, human resources, training and competency, essential resources and external system relationships." CFD was first accredited in 1999, and last re-accredited in 2005. They're one of only 148 fire/rescue agencies in the world with that status. [Read the entire article.](#)



And a Cary News piece on same, <http://www.carynews.com/2010/09/12/20367..>

Legeros - 09/12/10 - 15:57

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

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

Urban Tornado

09/09/10 38 W - + 8 - 4

[CNN posted this footage](#) of a tornado forming and striking an industrial section of Dallas. We've all seen ample footage of twisters in farm land. Here's what it looks like in an urban setting. Wow.

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'?

Roadside Haiku

09/09/10 92 W, 1 I - + 6 - 3

For your Thursday reading, here's something fun from the *New Yorker* web site. Bandit signs. Those are those tacky roadside advertisements that advertise such popular services as making money fast, losing weight easily, and removing hair painlessly. You see them on utility poles everywhere. In Atlanta, artist John Morse installed 500 of his own signs. The twist? They're written in the form of a haiku, that traditional Japanese poem that results in 17 syllables when written in English. Art as social commentary. Pretty amusing. [Read the entire story.](#)

*New Yorker photo*

New Yorker News, WTF?
 Who Reads That Rag?
 Mikey's Smoking Something

Legeros - 09/09/10 - 07:09

not the new yorker news, btw, the new yorker.

dog star - 09/09/10 - 14:31

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Fire Commission Meeting Notice, September 23

09/10/10 72 W - + 7 - 3

The Wake County Fire Commission holds its next meeting in another week. This is the first meeting in four months, as the July meeting was canceled. Note that this date is different from the previously scheduled date. It was changed to avoid conflicts with other meetings. Agenda and handouts forthcoming as available:

- Thursday, September 23, 2010
- 7:00 p.m.
- Wake County EMS Training Facility
- Commons Building, Lower Level, [4011 Carya Drive](#).

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Observing September 11

09/10/10 103 W - + 6 - 3

The Raleigh Fire Department will observe a moment of silence at all fire stations at 9:59 a.m. on Saturday, September 11. The time reflects the collapse of the South Tower at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

Personnel and apparatus will be positioned on station aprons at 9:55 a.m, and activate warning lights on all units at 9:58 a.m. One minute later, a general alert tone and announcement will advise stations and personnel to observe a moment of silence. Personnel will stand at attention for one minute.

What other formal events are scheduled this weekend for observing the events of September 11, 2001?

Thats awesome wish other departments would do something like that.

CEC - 09/10/10 - 09:27

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Big Fires on All Sides

09/10/10 223 W, 1 I - + 8 - 1

California, Michigan, Maryland. Big fires this week. Dave Statter's had great coverage of all three. We'll go west to east. [Natural gas transmission line ruptures](#) in suburban neighborhood outside of San Francisco last night. Over 50 homes destroyed. At least three killed and injured. Happened in early evening, which means sunset, which means amazing photos, as you'll see in the *New York Times* [coverage of same](#). One is shown below.

[Baltimore had a trio of multi-alarm fires](#) on Wednesday night. Mutual aid responded from everywhere, including Washington, DC. That's the first time the capital's sent support since the Great Baltimore Fire of 1904. Equally compelling are the comments, which range from commentary on the department's staffing issues to training/experience level disparities among assisting departments. Also visit the [Baltimore Watch Desk](#) for added effect.

[Detroit firefighters fought almost 100 fires](#) on Tuesday. High winds blowing and power lines falling equaled dozens of fires in a four-hour stretch. Toward the end, DFD reached out for aid. Said one official in one news report, that hasn't happened since the riots of 1967. The city also shuts down eight or nine of their 65 companies each day. Can't find a total of structures burned. Appears to be dozens. That's one tough town.

Great coverage by Statter.



Peter Dasilva/European Pressphoto Agency/New York Times photo

Optional Friday discussion topics for local focus, as based on above:

What gas, fuel, or other high-hazard transmission lines travel through highly populated areas here? And what response plans are in place?

How do you/should you accommodate differences in training/experience among departments utilized for mutual aid, or other assistance?

What techniques or plans are in your toolbox, for high-wind hazard days and resource needs therein?

Legeros - 09/10/10 - 06:57

No idea about transmission lines in the area. Anyway you could find something out for us on the issue?

Accommodating differences in training/experience for mutual aid? hmm. Not too sure about that one. maybe assign a Chief to Supervise each? Unified Command is a good one to. Thats tough.

High wind? I think we've all learned from our recent incidents here. Call for help ASAP. Big water NOW. At least we havent resorted to dynamite like in the old days right?

Jake T. - 09/10/10 - 13:53

I listened in on Detroit's jobs, classic size-up; "Ladder 28 on scene, I've got three dwellings goin' and four dwellings goin' a block over from us".

Silver - 09/10/10 - 17:43

Did a little looking on the subject of gas supply lines. Looks like they run through our state to the west, and maybe the Triad has 'em, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_nat..

Enlarge the map on the above page. I couldn't readily find a more detailed / higher resolution map.

Legeros - 09/13/10 - 08:38

The Dixie Pipeline delivers LP gas (high pressure liquid state) into Apex – the Apex guys can give you more detail. RDU Airport receives its aviation fuels via pipeline (Colonial Pipeline I think). PSNC (Cary/Raleigh on E. Chatham St./Hillsborough St.) receives their natural gas via pipeline (unknown transporter). There is also a small tank farm in Apex on Ten-Ten Rd. close to US-1 that is supplied by pipeline. All of these lines are under high pressure (600psi plus...) and capable of the destruction seen in the photos. Oddly, they are statistically safer than transporting over the road or rail. So, I guess there are more high pressure lines in Wake County than we think! SOme basic info on pipelines is located at: <http://www.pipeline101.com/>

A.C. Rich - 09/13/10 - 13:50

Thanks AC!

Google finds the Wake County Emergency Operations Plan for Multi-Hazards, and there are a couple pipeline maps in the Appendixes on pages 159 and 160, <http://www.wakegov.com/readywake/documen..>

Albeit, somewhat difficult to read maps.

Legeros - 09/13/10 - 19:41

Ahh... I see the natural gas line from US #1 north. Forgot about that one. It's 16" (I believe) and it was severed in the 80's when construction was taking place on the realignment of US-1 (4 lane) with S. Main St. (US-1A).

A.C. Rich - 09/14/10 - 11:47

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'?

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

Mystery Vehicle

09/10/10 29 W, 1 I - + 6 - 3

Here's your ambulance conversion picture of the day. Where's this mobile service unit slash rolling billboard sitting? You probably pass it every day. Click to enlarge:



I'm going to guess the corner of Cedar St and Lake St in Cary. Never been there, never seen this, but a picture is worth a thousand (or two) words...

rfburns - 09/10/10 - 23:09

Oops, I mean Cedar and Ward. Duh.

rfburns - 09/10/10 - 23:20

I like the street signs on the left side of the picture, Mike.

stretch - 09/11/10 - 01:14

It's right near the old Western Wake Station that was just sold.

NoName - 09/11/10 - 06:09

Correct-a-mundo. Also the intersection where the original Yrac fire station was once located, <http://legeros.com/ralwake/galleryw/stat..>

Legeros - 09/11/10 - 07:35

The question to me is what year is that old ambulance. I'm guessing 80-something model, possibly late 70's. I sold ambulances from 1990-mid 1993 and don't recall any dodges being used during that time and the styling of the chassis looks pretty old.

D.Cates - 09/11/10 - 08:50

It's about a '75 model. There is another unit like this out on 54/Miami Blvd. in Durham, too. but I don't think it's a Dodge. And that bad-boy should have a 440 under the lid.

Duda - 09/12/10 - 14:57

75-78 chassis, based upon the grill work. Dodge went to an entirely different grill work in 1979. Typical of Dodge and GM, there were only minor trim changes during many year models. The ambulance? Hard to tell. But as to the engine, my bet is a 360. Could be wrong, but I have never seen a Dodge II or III ambulance with anything bigger. I have seen several older Dodge type Is with the big 440.

DJ - 09/19/10 - 22:33

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E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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

Before And After

09/11/10 42 W, 2 I - + 5 - 5

[Granville Health System](#) paramedic ambulance displays a lively livery outside a sign shop on Pleasant Valley Road in northwest Raleigh. [See prior thread](#) for more information.



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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Moment of Silence

09/11/10 35 W, 1 I - + 9 - 4

Broadcast on Headquarters at 9:59 a.m. Attention all stations and all personnel. At this time, please observe a moment of silence in remembrance of all victims of the attacks on September 11, 2001.



Nice News 14 story on observances in Raleigh, Cary, and Wake Forest.

<http://charlotte.news14.com/content/loca..>

Legeros - 09/12/10 - 15:56

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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One Sweet Ride

09/12/10 29 W, 1 I - + 7 - 3

Here's a beauty. 1972 Plymouth Fury recreated as vintage New York City police cruiser. Read the [Sunday Times article](#).



Tony Cenicola/The New York Time photo

You should see the '72 Dodge Polara that Robert Farish from Little Washington has/had (he's now deceased). He was the biggest Buford Pusser (Walking Tall) historian on the east coast, and probably the country. I was working at Coastal Electronics in Greenville when he brought us the car, an era-correct prisoner cage, shotgun mount, and Whelen Model 11 lightbar, complete with chrome bell siren speaker. I had a time trying to figure out how the lightbar was supposed to be installed, as it was nothing like the modern bars I was used to.

His page is no longer available, but I found the car online and I have pictures of the build-up on my computer.

The whole process was pretty cool.

Duda - 09/12/10 - 14:53

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

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Yes
No

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Remaking Crabtree

09/12/10 97 W, 1 I - + 5 - 4

Good article from [Midtown Raleigh News](#) on the city's plans on remaking the roads around Crabtree Valley Mall. They suck, and [this exceptionally interesting report](#) tells how they could be made better. Notable highlights are the appendix design maps, and hilarious comments from survey participants.

Highlights of the proposal include extending Crabtree Valley Avenue from Creedmoor to a new Beltline exchange, and routing Ridge Road from the Beltline bridge to Glenwood Avenue. Will be hell during construction, of course.

Click once or twice to enlarge this rendering of what everything would look like by 2035.



I read the proposal and one underlining comment I can make is each plan increases the visual pollution of the area and only complicates navigation through the area. I favor plan C, tunnel. Create a Glenwood Express under the existing Glenwood Avenue.

stretch - 09/12/10 - 13:22

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Increasing Your Suction

09/12/10 113 W, 1 I - + 5 - 4

Or the alternate title of this posting, How to Suck More. Tired of your wimpy Garmin GPS windshield suction mount giving up the ghost every time there's global warming inside your car? Kick sand in the scrawny thing's face with this baby, a Bracketron Universal Low-Pro Windshield Mount. The Mr. Atlas of mounts. Get 'em anywhere. Twenty bucks. The thing has a bigger cup size, which is pretty exciting unto itself. Then there's the ratcheting lever, which produces some seriously strong adhesion. Suck it and forget it. Ten points extra credit if you can identify the mystery parking location of the Blog Mobile.



Not to be critical – (really, I'm not!); I use the MDT map in the Unit every shift to get oriented as to where we are going on a call – but there is something to be said about area familiarization and knowing how to get from A to B without the Garmin.

(And when your shift is over, please clean off the suction-cup circle mark on the windshield!)

Stovelegs - 09/12/10 - 11:48

"but there is something to be said about area familiarization and knowing how to get from A to B without the Garmin." Key emphasis on "area familiarization". Nothing like going to where MARVLIS takes you, looking around, and wondering just where the h*** you are at.

DJ - 09/12/10 - 11:55

I am hoping to outfit Blog 1 with mobile data terminal technology. Awaiting word on an Assistance to Stalking Shutterbugs (ASS) grant.

Legeros - 09/12/10 - 15:51

There will also be mobile mounts released for the Uniden Home Patrol. The radio should be released in couple weeks. Link to more info below my name :-)

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/15/10 - 21:45

Name: (real name
preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes

Tanks For The Memories

09/12/10 68 W, 1 I - + 6 - 3

Firegeezzer offers the day's best discussion topic: [firefighting tanks in the former Soviet Union](#), and why the heck are they building them? Extraordinary surplus of armored vehicles? Restless automotive engineers? Frequent conflagrations? Whatever the reasons, read his thoughts and then tool over to the [web site on said topic](#). Those dry-chemical cannons in particular are something else!



Looks like the next WWB299 to me. After seeing some of those deuces at the Expo, I think we may have a place for this in Wake Co.

Duda - 09/13/10 - 09:22

Name: (real name preferred)
E-mail: (optional)
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Yes
No

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

Emergency Pole

09/12/10 40 W, 1 I - + 5 - 2

The identifying marking band's still present, as is the wiring conduit. Gone is the emergency call box, which was retired in 2007, correct? How many were left at that time, anyway?



I thought there was still one on Capital Blvd... I had to go to Google Maps to remember that it's not actually there:

<http://tinyurl.com/2cl7ql>

rfburns - 09/12/10 - 20:51

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Another Vacant Home Burns in Clayton

09/13/10 89 W, 1 I - + 6 - 3

[As this WRAL story reports](#), it's the eighth suspicious fire since October. Two of those fires also occurred in the Glen Laurel area, where this morning's fire damaged a vacant home at 45 Middlecrest Way. The fire is being treated as suspicious, because of the early hour that it started. The house was under construction, and which was the case of many of the prior fires. Police are offering over \$10,000 for information that leads to locating those responsible.



Stacy Davis/WRAL photo

Does this posting read a little better now? That's because the lovely Mrs. Blogger passed along the following edits.

- ~ because of the early hour that it start ('started')
- ~ which was case of many of the prior fires (insert 'the' before 'case')
- ~ leads to locking those responsible (change 'locking' to 'locating')
- ~ it's eighth suspicious fire since October (did you mean for 'it's' to be plural?)

Yup, I definitely need to spend more time proofreading!

Legeros - 09/15/10 - 20:43

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
 No

Big Haz-Mat Drill This Week

09/14/10 171 W, 1 I - + 5 - 6

[As this city press release notes](#), the Raleigh Fire Department, Garner Fire Department, Fayetteville Fire Department (their regional response team), Wake County EMS, Wake County Emergency Management, and Raleigh Police Department are participating in a three-day haz-mat exercise beginning September 15.

Sponsored by the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management, the full-scale drill will be held behind the former Wal-Mart at the intersection of Garner Station Boulevard and Highway 401. The exercise is designed to test first responder readiness for handling a mass casualty and hazardous material event.

The drill will involve a mock traffic accident involving a Capital Area Transit bus, a fuel tanker, and a construction vehicle. It begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m. each day.

Here's more information on the state [regional response teams](#), not included in the press release. Raleigh (RRT4) and Fayetteville (RRT3) operate two of the seven teams. For extra credit, identify the date and place of the stock photo shown below.



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

Remember personal info?

Yes
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

New Hanover County Votes to Consolidate Fire Departments

09/14/10 107 W - + 7 - 6

Last week, commissioners in New Hanover County approved a plan to consolidate the volunteer Castle Hayne, Federal Point, Myrtle Grove, and Wrightsboro fire departments under county control.

They'll be merged with New Hanover County Fire Department, as [this Star-News story](#) reports, with paid firefighters plus volunteers at each station. The transition starts October 1. The plan had been hotly debated for months.

FireNews also found [this WWAY story](#), which includes reader reactions. Here are some earlier blog posts on the subject, from [June 29](#) and [May 11](#). Also see this [NHCFD web page](#), with documents for download about the consolidation plan.

One follow-up story on how the consolidation is going, from FireNews and about issues in Myrtle Grove: [http://firenews.net/index.php/headlines/..](http://firenews.net/index.php/headlines/)

Legeros - 10/02/10 - 08:56

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

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

Searching For Evidence

09/15/10 49 W, 1 I - + 8 - 4

Today's *News & Observer* includes this strong photo by Shawn Rocco, showing Raleigh police officers searching for evidence after Monday night's fatal shooting on Crabtree Boulevard. Great composition and detail, and taken at night no less. [Read the story.](#)



Shawn Rocco/News & Observer photo

That is a phenomenal night shot! He must have a FAST lens.

Mike - 09/15/10 - 11:27

"taken at night", I find that part hard to swallow, I see tree shadows on the guy in front and 2 is looking 100% through sunglasses. 5 total with sunglasses on their heads. More like after sunrise to me.

2redline - 09/15/10 - 11:31

Looks like a FOD walk down.

OldSalt - 09/15/10 - 13:46

I'm going with "crack of dawn" on this one....

Silver - 09/15/10 - 23:57

Thanks for the kind words in the post. But... this is a photograph from the following day at 8:03 a.m. to be exact. Though the way they keep making camera sensors it won't be long before this could be done at night.

best,

Shawn

shawn ([Email](#)) - 09/20/10 - 22:55

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

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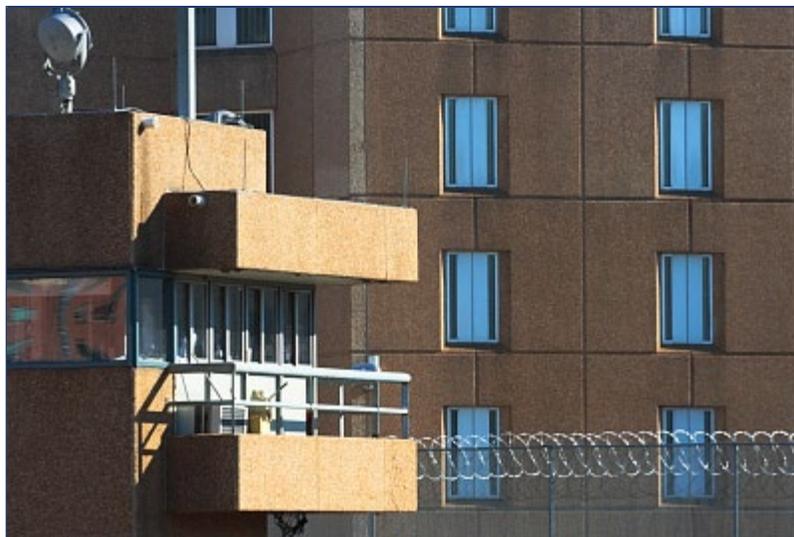
Yes

No

Mystery View

09/15/10 34 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

That's the Big House. Raleigh's Central Prison. But where was this picture taken from? Four sides to choose from, and numerous variations therein. Kids, stay out of jail. Click to enlarge:



I am willing to guess...You took the photo from the railroad bridge over Western Blvd.

stretch - 09/15/10 - 20:24

The picture was taken from this parking lot off W. Morgan St.:

<http://www.bing.com/maps/?v=2&cp=pywxhm8..>

RescueRanger - 09/15/10 - 20:26

The parking lot of the Randall Bldg. on Morgan St.

Duda - 09/16/10 - 10:33

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Watching the Watchmen

09/15/10 267 W - + 3 - 6

Discussion topic for your consideration. Taping the police. Here's a [Washington Examiner posting](#) presenting a Cato Institute video on the subject, found this week while reading [Drudge](#). Other opinions and perspectives are also easy to find. The digital age has brought photography and videotaping of public servants pretty far into the foreground.

What do readers think? Law enforcement uses taping to enforce laws. Should citizens use taping to enforce [adjective] law enforcement? Note the intentional addition of [adjective] in the last sentence. For some people, [adjective] might be "effective." Others might say "appropriate." Others might opt for "legal."

Here's a notable quote from the above article, citing an [earlier Examiner editorial](#) that wrote "those who record police frequently are 'more of a threat to the jobs of public safety officers than to public safety itself. One is not the same as the other'."

What does the law-enforcement community think? What's the impact of taping on the performance of their duties, and, in particular, during confrontations and arrests? (Both the physical presence of the camera, and the impartial record created from same?)

Discuss as desired.¹

¹The title of this posting is derived from the Latin phrase [Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?](#) by the Roman poet Juvenal, which is literally translated as "Who will guard the guards themselves?" And which is also rendered as the more familiar "Who watches the watchmen." Yeah, had to look that all up. [Watchmen](#) is also the title of a 1986-87 comic book series that's perhaps finest in modern times.

First, I'd like to point out the Washington Examiner articles referenced are both "opinion articles", and a quick browse through the web site shows they're made up or more opinion than news. I've never heard of them, but my quick browse tells me they're more like the Independent than the N&O. Second, the Cato Institute, according to Wikipedia, is a libertarian think tank for limited government, individual liberty, free markets, etc. So, it's already impossible for the police to do right by these two organizations...

But, let's talk about taping the police... I don't know of any police that don't want to be taped because they want to do something illegal, violate someone's rights, or kick someone's butt. No police I know are planning on doing that, and they have no interest in doing that. Between DOT cameras, private business cameras, and cameras in all our cars, we pretty much take it for granted that we're always being taped by something, somewhere. Our dislike for the handheld cameras has come about because we've found that the people who stick cameras in our faces are trying to antagonize us, catch us making a mistake, or just generally cause us embarrassment. And unfortunately, when an officer does make a mistake, even accidental, the likelihood they'll get disciplined is directly related to the amount of embarrassment it causes. So, being on YouTube exponentially increases your chances of being written up. Pee in a dark alley in the middle of the night when nobody's around, and nobody knows. Pee in a dark alley when nobody's around but a security camera sees you, and it ends up on YouTube? Toast.

I almost never see someone keeping their distance, quietly filming. Almost always, they stand as close as they can, yelling at the person we're dealing with, "Man, they're harassing/assaulting/illegally-searching you! They can't do that to you! I'm getting this all on tape! You're gonna sue them!" If we had a "Mike" or "Lee" that was friendly with us, photographed us from a distance, and shared the good photos with us... well, we might still be suspicious of them. :) But, we don't have anyone like that.

Those that tape their own encounters know darn well they're not going to record anything illegal. They're hoping to record something that will get the officer in trouble, which they hope will then cause their own legal troubles to be reduced or eliminated. And if that doesn't work, they hope they can be a YouTube hit.

rfburns - 09/15/10 - 21:18

rfburns has some great points above and there is very little else that needs to be said. Perfect post rfburns. Mike, this piece seems to be

designed to stir up anti-LEO sentiment. Since I have started doing photography (I will always be a radio geek first & foremost) I have had nothing but good encounters with LEO. When Harkey asked me to drop by the RPD Command post during the NC Fallen FF Memorial services I was given free reign to take as many photos as I wanted: <http://bit.ly/cRFoSn>. Main thing is I respect the job they are trying to do and I would never do anything that would make an LEOs job more difficult.

Oh and rfburns: I could be the thin blue line version that compliments the FD/EMS versions of Legeros or Wilson :-)

I have always made my photos available to all!

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/15/10 - 22:03

Marshall, you think the Cato video is more anti- than neutral? It struck me— on single viewing, mind you— as perhaps more even-handed. Though it did try to cover a lot of ground, notably (a.) self-taping by police and benefits therein, (b.) citizen taping of police, and (c.) police response/reaction to citizen taping. The first part was notably interesting for their advocating helmet/hat cams. Now there's a concept!

Legeros - 09/15/10 - 22:11

@Mike Yeah. Don't get me wrong I can see what you are talking about as well. Maybe it is because I have seen so many of these studies that end up being a "hit job". I am all for transparency and when you are out in public no one should expect privacy these days (as rfburns pointed out). Having had LEO friends that have had run-ins with doofuses who have a cellphone camera pulled out trying to instigate/cause situations I guess I am just more sensitive to it. Great topic for discussion though Mike! Thanks for putting this on the blog! I am now gonna do some more research on this and consider all perspectives and point of views.

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/15/10 - 22:17

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Web Site: (optional)

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Don't Forget Your Apron

09/15/10 37 W, 1 I - + 5 - 8

That's Station 14 on Lake Boone Trail. The aprons at Station 3 on East Street, and Station 4 on Northway Court, are about done. As noted in another thread, Rescue 3 is temporarily housed at Station 6.



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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment:

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Vintage Photo of Station 14

09/16/10 63 W, 1 I - + 5 - 4

Here's a picture from a few decades prior of Station 14, as scanned from a 35mm slide. The engine is a 1951 American LaFrance 700 Series pumper, [registration number L-4433](#). Served as Engine 14 from 1974 to ~~1974~~1975. The Plymouth chief's car is a model year between 1968 and 1975. The fire department had them for the model years 1968, 1970 (2), 1971 (2), 1972 (2), and 1975 (2). Click once or twice to enlarge:



So that engine was only E14 for the one year, eh?

Duda - 09/16/10 - 10:30

served as e3 and e8 prior to e14. was placed in reserve status in 1975. and sold in 1986

charlie - 09/16/10 - 14:46

Nice typo of mine. Engine served 1974 to 1975. The station had just opened, if memory serves. That was one of the oldest engines in the fleet.

Legeros - 09/16/10 - 20:30

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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Props at Twilight

09/16/10 68 W, 1 I - + 6 - 6

Here's a [high-dynamic range](#) (HDR) image of a sunset on Garner Station Boulevard, and featuring the props from this week's [big honkin' hazmat drill](#). The third and last day starts tomorrow. Drill pics from Lee Wilson forthcoming. This picture was made with a Canon Digital Rebel XT saved as Canon RAW, and converted to HDR using [PhotoMatrix Pro 3.0](#). Click once or twice to enlarge.



Good pic Mike... and a great heads up on tomorrow's scenario! My that tanker looks familiar! See you there(?)

A.C. Rich - 09/16/10 - 22:14

Yikes, don't want to spill the beans! We'll restore the photo tomorrow night.

Legeros - 09/16/10 - 22:20

It's OK, we already know what the scenario is anyway :-)

A.C. Rich - 09/16/10 - 22:28

If only this could have been accomplished without taking 4 of the busiest EMS units out of service during a busy Friday morning/afternoon. I would have thought real calls would be more of a priority than a training exercise but clearly I was wrong.

Joey - 09/18/10 - 07:59

Joey, rest assured that there are sufficient EMS units in the system to take a few out for training without adversely impacting the service provided to the citizens. That's why the training takes place in the morning and early afternoon, before the system gets really busy. Just like the fire service, the EMS system has the capacity to engage in a little bit of on-duty training.

CH100 - 09/18/10 - 08:50

Oh yes, and had it become necessary, all those units could have been pulled and put back in to service in a heartbeat – just like all the hazmat vehicles and engine companies that participated.

CH100 - 09/18/10 - 08:53

And which happened on Wednesday on the fire side, when haz-mat units left the exercise to respond to an incident in North Raleigh...

Legeros - 09/18/10 - 09:06

Here's my problem with it. The EMS units covering most of West Raleigh, one of the downtown trucks and one of the Garner area trucks were

all out of service at the same time. All of the trucks have overlapping primary response areas. It appears no plans were made before hand in order to arrange other units to cover these areas during this time. It was left to RWECC to see the holes and send coverage as usual. A couple problems 1) this is not always the quickest way as it can take several minutes before units are dispatched to coverage 2) the units that would have been the next in for coverage we also out of service for the event and thus units sent for coverage where further away than normal.

This would be an unavoidable issue during large scale incidents but in no way should this have happened for a prearranged training exercise. Maybe coverage should have been worked out prior to the exercise or units sent to it should have been picked from a different areas and not districts that overlapped. Additionally, I can think of no busier place in the county than downtown Raleigh and the NC State during Friday mornings and early afternoons. As evidence of this you can go look at all the units bouncing around coverage and calls in these areas yesterday. Maybe your understanding of "busy" and mine are different but I would consider anytime coverage has to be arranged for an area for hours on end to be busy. I don't have any experience as an officer in EMS but I do have some common sense.

Joey - 09/18/10 - 14:21

The way that we rearrange units is through RWECC – that's not a deficiency, that's by design – RWECC manages the real-time deployment of EMS units. And since there are no "districts" (certainly none that overlapped) in EMS operations, I'm not sure where you're coming from. Our system is a dynamic one, by design – that means we move units around whenever and wherever they are needed. And truth be known, you really don't have any idea of what arrangements were made in advance. Those responsible for the system knew exactly what was happening, were monitoring on a minute by minute basis, and until the hazmat incident went down in North Raleigh no interventions were required. We don't regard units "bouncing around" as a bad thing – that's how we've designed the EMS system to work, with AVL and coverage maps and all. This was a Raleigh drill that happened in Raleigh and Garner – Raleigh and Garner fire units participated, and Raleigh and Garner – based EMS units participated. Wouldn't have it any other way. Last, mornings and early afternoons are not the busy times for the EMS system – it's afternoon and early evening for us, and the EMS portions of the drill were pretty much wrapped up by lunch. Sorry it made you unhappy, but you can expect to see more on-duty training activities going forward.

CH100 - 09/18/10 - 20:50

The issue of no "districts" is one purely of semantics, units have an area that they primarily stay in or around and are sent to the calls in that area. Perhaps I should be more careful with word choice if we are going to play this game. Let us say more specifically that there is a truck that typically (clearly it is not in a "district") is first in to calls to in an area, and then the next closest truck, again typically, responds to the next call in that area and so on. I fail to see how having the 1st, 2nd and 3rd in units that "typically respond" to an area out of service at the same time doesn't impact response times. I'm sorry I said overlapped, clearly I misspoke.

Also, I still think my point about it impacting coverage is valid. Anyone listening to the radio traffic could hear units from all over having to move up for coverage and/or run calls in the downtown Raleigh/Garner area during this time. I'm not saying it's bad RWECC has to move up trucks, I'm saying in a situation that will obviously leave an area deficient of resources that plans should have been made ahead of time. Unless you are saying all units that had to be moved up knew ahead of time what was going on, in which case I ask why they had to be dispatched to the areas and were not already on their way.

I'm also not sure why I don't feel more comfortable knowing in service trucks will be taken out of service on a more regular basis. I don't know about you but I think having the most trucks in service that can be at any time is a good thing. There is a much higher density of fire apparatus in a given area than EMS units. First responders will usually be within a reasonable distance but knowing that it will be the 4th in to the district ambulance... sorry I mean to say the 4th ambulance to "typically respond to an area" that has to come transport a patient is slightly disconcerting.

Joey - 09/18/10 - 22:16

It's not just semantics, Joey – it's a system that's intended to do what did during that drill – to fold in on itself and handle all the calls just like any other day. Kind of like what they computer guys call a self-healing network. The EMS system has plenty of capacity – an average UHU of .25, meaning that units are on average available (not on calls) 75% of the time, and even at the busiest time the system rarely falls below 10 units available. Most EMS systems expect to get to "level zero" several times per day, and even during the Conagra event that didn't happen. If what you're saying is that all drills should be handled with extra-duty units, or that a drill in Raleigh should be handled with units from Stony Hill and Zebulon, that makes no sense to me. And when a unit from North Raleigh is covering Highwoods or NC state, it's not the fourth due – it's the first due to a call downtown. We just don't put any stock in what ambulance "typically responds" to an area – that's just an accident of where the unit starts and stops its shift. Fire does on-duty training regularly (and again, not forgetting that all of those units could be put back in service instantly); I can't see any reason why EMS units shouldn't do the same, unless you think that having units sitting in their home stations is important. I don't. Having good training with the people that we expect to work with in a given scenario (in this case, downtown and Garner units on a downtown-Garner exercise) seems like the right thing to do.

CH100 - 09/19/10 - 08:34

You are contradicting yourself. If there are no set response zones and units are able to respond to any location, why does it matter what the units taken out of service for training? By your logic any unit could respond to a hazmat call regardless of where their station is. So why does it make any difference whether a Stony Hill or Zebulon EMS unit trains for the incident if they may very well be the unit that responds to the incident as there are no primary response areas. You say you don't put stock in where an ambulance typically responds yet you take ambulances from "downtown and Garner units on a downtown-Garner exercise," that's a bit of a contradiction.

Additionally, I disagree that is "an accident of where the unit starts and stops its shift" for the location of EMS units. Take Eastern Wake for example, if those units were to start their shifts and start roaming around it would become a huge mess of AVL recommending new coverage assignments for, what, 5 different towns? This process is slow, as it can take minutes for the hole to be seen, it backs up the locutia dispatch of other calls and requires units to travel a significant distance to cover an area (otherwise AVL would not show a lapse in coverage if they were close). It may be true that there are no set districts but there is an element of organization and expectation. Let's look at NC State as an example because they have 1 unit that "starts and stops its shift" in the area and it's a simple example.

For whatever physical anomaly EMS 8 seems to catch the first call around NC State. Then the next closest to the area (what is it EMS 4 from the NE side and one of the downtown trucks from the East?) usually get the next call in the area if they are not already on another. Again, I'm going based on what actually happens regardless of not having set response areas. It seems a sort of precedent that these ambulances stay in these areas. When these units are all taken out of service at the same time it leaves a hole that the AVL system has to compensate for. I think I've stated plenty of reasons why this is not a bad system for normal volume related move ups but not ideal for times when a large area is now short on the ambulances that usually respond to the area because of the decision to take them all out of service without prearrange coverage. The fire departments around here tend to make sure that stations are covered during on-duty training, that is before they start training they will have another unit move up to the area from somewhere else to pick up the slack; not rely on coverage after the fact and when calls start coming in. What I'm saying is perhaps this would be the prudent move for the EMS side of things, instead of relying on the AVL system to respond to the stresses placed by the on-duty training, they should plan ahead.

Joey - 09/19/10 - 10:52

I don't see that as being contradictory. As you said, units are more likely to respond to calls near where they start and stop their shifts.

If you believe in "train as you fight and fight as you train" then when you take units out of the system to respond to a drill, you let the rest of the system respond as it would if that drill were a real event. At least that was our decision. Everybody gets practice just as if it were a replay of ConAgra or EQ, not just the trucks participating in the hands on events.

I respect your right to disagree, but we rely on the AVL system to handle our real world urgencies, so we decided to allow it to respond to our drill-based urgencies as well. For one, I think that the folks at RWECC do a great job with it every day and did so over the three days of the hazmat drill.

CH100 - 09/20/10 - 18:16

Chief:

Would you say that units downtown have the same right to training as units in other areas? Considering that NC 96 runs through Wake County from Zebulon to the Franklin County line, crossing 2, if not 3 primary response areas, would it not be an acceptable practice to pull units from all areas for this type of training?

I totally agree with you, in that any unit in the system can get a call anywhere. Having been a part of this system in the past, it was one thing I liked, that I got to respond to a variety of areas and see a different side of the picture all the time. But, I do agree in part with Joey. To take only certain units and conduct this training doesn't make a whole lot of sense to me, when any unit can get a call anywhere. To me, it would be more prudent to allow a wider range of units to conduct the training and "spread the wealth," so to speak.

I do want to thank you for coming on here and being willing to explain and listen to another side of the coin... it's very refreshing for a chief to be willing to do that.

CJS - 09/21/10 - 06:26

It was one event that lasted three days, so three sets of crews got to train. Next time, with rotations and different days, different people will be involved. If they'd have run the scenario 6 or 9 times, we'd have had different arrangements. Hey, maybe some of the fire departments besides

Raleigh will host major drills, and units nearby them can participate too, including the contract agencies. I'd really like to see that – we don't get enough opportunities to train together for the unusual events that we will ultimately have to face. We can have "the big one" anywhere – in fact, more than half the major events that I can remember did not happen in Raleigh – EQ, ConAgra, the Gulf Hurricane relocations....everybody needs to be ready for the big dance!

CH100 - 09/21/10 - 07:31

Good comments. While I have my issues with AVL and all (not the concept per se, but the way it is implemented, but that is for another day), I do like the concept of 'on-duty training'. There is a certain stigma attached to taking units out of service in a lot of areas for it, but it is how you really learn things that you need to know.

For those that brought it up, those that cling to it, and those that are trying to tear it down- no matter what, there will always be a 'district' or 'first due area' mentality present in varying degrees. No amount of whatever is going to change that. At least not in mine, CH100's, or even MD1's lifetime. It's human nature. I am a responder in this county and I have my comfort zone. Get me out of it and I get, well, antsy because I am not familiar with the locations (MARVLIS does play tricks on you...I have the screen shots to prove it...properly edited for HIPPA purposes), the first responders (yes, you guys are different in different parts of the county), and other factors come into play. It's not change, it's human nature.

But back to on-duty training- it's a good thing. We did the active shooter program on an off-duty training day, and it helped, but it was WAY different than the real thing. I think the on-duty drills add the sense of realism, in that, yes, we have to move units around (me? I think we are short anyway) and we see what our capabilities TRULY are. CH100 says that our busy times are afternoon and evening. So can we handle this during those times? Could we handle two significant events during those time periods? Could we really handle two significant events at 0230, which over my career has been when 95% of those events occur. I for one would like to know.

And another thing, which someone touched on, as it relates to AVL. You guys know where I work (for those that don't, it's the area bordered pretty much by Macedonia, Upchurch, Green Level, and Bonsal). As a part of the system, we are responsible for a lot of stuff outside of our district, first due, primary, or comfort zone. We don't get that training. It's not enough to present it in a PowerPoint or write it up in a protocol. It's not enough to cover it in EMS CME (callback) once in a while. We (and everyone) has to practice it. It has to be practiced more often than we are now. We don't have any high-rises in my comfort zone, but it is entirely feasible that the first in units for a high rise incident in Raleigh (or anywhere) could be my two ambulances. So yes, it does make sense to pull the perimeter units in for drills like this, since we may well have to do it. The crews that participated hopefully gained a lot of good experience and knowledge, but it simply is not good enough to do one drill. My units may be first in on this type of situation, and if they are not 'totally competent' as someone said to me, who's fault is it?

Two things occur with on-duty drills like this. First, we get good experience that we can apply. There is no substitute for that. Period. We just cannot continue to do the 'one drill every so often' thing that only a few get to participate in. It's expensive, yes, but look at the alternative.

Second, if the system cannot handle it, then we need to see that, too. Can the system handle one or two multiple patient events in the late afternoon? Or how about two hours after the last peak load units go home? If not, then we really need to know that now.

DJ - 09/21/10 - 10:29

Oh yeah, and it makes really good sense to do these over multiple days. It doesn't do any good for B shift to get the drill, because you know the real thing is NOT going to happen on a B shift day.

DJ - 09/21/10 - 10:33

Chief and DJ –

Thank you for the excellent info and viewpoints. I appreciate your candor on this subject.

Perhaps, in the next little while, since I am going through the current assessment process, I will get the chance to take part in this training firsthand, and not just sit on the sidelines.

CJS - 09/21/10 - 23:36

Name: (real name

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This Weekend's Events

09/16/10 56 W - + 5 - 3

Sep 18 - Saturday

- Durham Highway FD - Public Safety Day - Leesville High School - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Rolesville Public Safety - [Hot Pick'n Finger Lick'n Barbecue & Bands](#) - Sonic Drive In - 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Public safety members cooking pig, chicken, and ribs in competition.

Others?

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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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This Week's Deja Vu

09/17/10 178 W, 2 I - + 6 - 4

Lee Wilson took the top photo at [5010 Second Street](#), at Wednesday's haz-mat incident at a commercial building off Old Wake Forest Road involving a reported acid leak in a battery room. Dispatched about 12:30 p.m., with some companies responding from the haz-mat drill in Garner. The entry team had no readings. No injuries. Units on scene included E9, R1, HM1, SR2, A1, B1, B2, B3, C2, C71, EMS 7, EMS 2, EMS 11, M93, D3. [See more pictures.](#)

Mike Legeros took the bottom photo at the same location in April 2008. If memory serves, units were on scene for the same reported problem. [See those photos](#), which are considerably duller than Lee's. Must have been an overcast day. Or just a less adept photographer. Both were "B" shift days. What are those odds? After extensive paper calculation, we compute the chances of "B" shift working on a given day in a given year as 33.33%. Next up, converting that value to a fraction. We'll work on that.



Lee Wilson photo



Mike Legeros photo

Historic Mill Building Burns in Randolph County

09/17/10 158 W, 1 I - + 9 - 1

[FireNews has posted a story](#) about a historic mill building in Randolph County that burned on September 3. The Franklinville Manufacturing Company building at [1306 Andrew Hunter Road](#) in Franklinville was also known as the Old Franklinville Mill. The abandoned structure was fully involved on arrival of Engine 82. Other departments on scene included East Side, Staley, West Side, Climax, Ulah, Seagrove, and Liberty. They also have a [link to additional images](#) also posted by FFD.

[This MyFox8 story notes](#) that the mill closed in 1978 and was purchased by the Randolph Heritage Conservancy in 1994. They were hoping to turn same into an attraction. Citing this [Notes on the History of Randolph County, NC web site](#), the story says the building was built in 1938. Looks like the manufacturing company dated to the 1830s. Google also finds this neat page about [Historic Mills on the Deep River in North Carolina](#).



Pete Sulzer/FireNews photo

Name: (real name preferred)

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Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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Fire Commission Meeting Agenda & Documents, Sep 23

09/17/10 380 W - + 6 - 4

[Here's the agenda and related documents](#) for next week's Wake County Fire Commission Meeting on Thursday, September 23, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., at Wake County EMS Training Facility, at the lower level of the Commons Building, 4011 Carya Drive. [Read more](#) about the Fire Commission.

Agenda

- Call meeting to order
 - Invocation
 - Roll of Members Present
 - Approval of Agenda
- Minutes
 - Adoption of Minutes for May 13th, 2010, Regular Meeting
- Regular Agenda
 - Consider Staffing Committee Recommendation on Allocation of FY11 Positions
 - Consider Changing Funding Source for Approved FY 11 Fire Apparatus
 - Consider Modification of Eastern Wake and Garner Fire Insurance District Boundaries for Southeast Wake County Fire Station
- Information Agenda
 - Post Incident Review Training Program
 - Facility Committee
 - Countywide Ethics Policy
 - Calendar Year 2011 Meeting Dates
 - 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 November 18th, 2010.

Information and Documents

Copies placed in <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog/wcfc/2010-09/>

1. Agenda
2. Draft Minutes of the May 13, 2010, Regular Meeting
The minutes are on the agenda for approval.
3. Staffing Committee Recommendation on Allocation of FY11 Positions
One document, with details and recommendation to allocating nine budget positions to Bay Leaf, Fairview, and New Hope fire departments.
4. Recommendation on Funding Source for Approved FY11 Fire Apparatus
Three documents, with details on request to appropriate money for the purchase of engines for Hopkins and Stony Hill fire departments.
5. Modification of Eastern Wake and Garner Suburban Fire Insurance Districts
Maps will be available at the meeting. The Eastern Wake and Garner Suburban Fire Districts need to be modified based on the location of the soon-to-be-opening Garner Station 4.

6. Facility Committee Report

One document, with updates on various facilities projects:

- Garner Station 4
- Bay Leaf Headquarters Station
- Bay Leaf Station 3/Durham Highway/Hopkins Renovations
- Zebulon Station 2
- Wendell Falls Fire Station
- Dormitory Renovation Project

7. Countywide Ethics Policy

One document, a draft ethics policy. The draft is provided for information and discussion purposes.

8. Calendar Year 2011 Meeting Dates

One document, with calendar year 2011 meeting dates. The dates will be on the November meeting agenda for approval of a meeting calendar.

9. Financial Report

Two documents, with reports for FY2010 and FY2011.

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

Paparazzi

09/17/10 75 W - + 7 - 6

Celebrity + airport + photographers. This footage from LAX airport in 2008 was a key exhibit in a California court case this week. The state passed a law with penalties for photographers breaking traffic laws, or impeding the operation of a celebrity's vehicle. If you've never seen aggressive paparazzi in action (oxymoron?), here's what it looks like. Wow. Also, be advised that there are some bad words on this clip. Language alert for sensitive ears.

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Think of the Miners

09/18/10 48 W, 1 I - + 5 - 4

Neat graphic and information from [Newsweek](#) about the 33 miners in Chile trapped 2,230 feet underground, and the 3.19-inch canisters that are their only links to civilization via three bore holes. Rescuers will reach them in a couple months.



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Good Company

09/18/10 70 W, 2 I - + 4 - 7

Two trucks that you don't often see together. Left is Stony Hill's 1954 Mack B75 pumper, 750 GPM, 750 gallons, originally served Independence, N.J. Placed in service in Wake County in 1974. Right is Raleigh's 2007 Pierce Arrow XT aerial ladder, 105-foot, 1500 GPM, 300 gallons. Ladder 3, housed at Station 17. Photographed at Durham Highway's Public Safety Day, that's underway at Leesville High School. And what a difference direct sunlight makes! Click to enlarge:



Many do not realize, but that Mack is "un-restored" and exhibits the original paint. Restoration is in a planning process, but moving slowly. Donations will be graciously accepted!

A.C. Rich - 09/22/10 - 23:52

Mystery Vehicle

09/18/10 27 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

This one's probably pretty easy. Converted to black and white to make the thing at least slightly challenging.



County Comm Truck

Doppler - 09/19/10 - 04:26

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

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Yes

No

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Mystery Incident

09/18/10 140 W, 3 I - + 9 - 3

Here are a trio of vintage photos from a fire at a tire store. Was ready to post with details of the Hunt General Tire Company fire in 1980, but noticed the haz-mat guys in the third picture. The team hadn't been formed yet! And that's one of the two 1986 EEI/Pemfab pumpers in the second shot, so it's a mid-decade incident or later. Ring any, ahem, bells?

In the second picture, that's Raleigh's old Rescue 1, which was repainted from all-white and placed in service as an air and light unit. There's also the Six Forks Fire Department brush truck and cascade trailer. They provided air service to Raleigh and other departments for many years. In the bottom photo, the apparatus operator is easy to identify. That's the legendary "Tramp" Dunn, of course. Click to enlarge:



Drivers wore red lids????

Silver - 09/18/10 - 19:48

Engine company firefighters wore red. In March 1984, fiberglass helmets replaced the traditional plastic lids. Those had been used since about 1950. They were black, with red for Captains (I think), and white for Chiefs. The new helmets in 1984 were color-coded by rank. Engines wore red. Truckies wore black. Captains wore yellow. Rescue wore blue. Chiefs wore white. Not sure when that system stopped. In the above photo, "Tramp" must have been a First Class at the time.

Legeros - 09/18/10 - 20:28

Definitely 1986 or very shortly after and it appears they were still under the Chief Kuster helmet color coding scheme. As I understand, that helmet color scheme departed when Chief Pickard arrived and the colors became what we know now. Mike you probably remember, but our academy wore old yellow 660 helmets and many had "captain" sticker insignias on the fronts. Hazmat was formed in 1983 and the yellow jumpsuits are consistent with the time – looks like a C-Shift day and that's Connie Altman in the HM jumpsuit facing the camera. Also, Tramp was a FF-II (Engineer) then. Finally, note the hose deployment from the rear of E-3.... 1 3/4" on the driver's side and the 1.5" on the passenger's side (the old horseshoe lays). Interesting history!

A.C. Rich - 09/18/10 - 23:53

Here's a history of Raleigh helmets, that we blogged upon previously, <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..>

Legeros - 09/19/10 - 06:01

Here's a little more detective work, AC. Engine 3 was placed in service with the EEI/Pemfab on January 13, 1987. So the fire dates after that date. Folks look like they're warmer than cooler in the shots, so it's not dead winter. And you don't see people falling out everywhere, so it's probably not high summer.

Looking through my list of major fires from 1987, the Watson's fire of March 28 jumps out at me as a possibility. We blogged about that one, <http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog..>, along with their other fires. That's my next stop, before I check the timeline details on my RFD history site.

That posting about Waston's fires contained this chart, <http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog..>, that listed... Keene's Tire Company, which we see as a sign on the building in these pictures. Ta-da!

This reinforces an action item of mine, to archive all the RFD history blog posts in another area, or on another web site. Make them easier to find and read outside of the blog format. Even have a sticky note on my calendar to do same! History never sleeps.

Now to find to my master copies of those pictures, and rename them with the correct dates.

Legeros - 09/19/10 - 06:21

Randall Cooper in the other yellow suit talking to RPD?

RescueRanger - 09/19/10 - 10:03

Could be Randall... or maybe Sonny Bridges (Randall is a little taller... maybe all in the view perspective). I believe that crew was Capt. Eudy, Sonny, Connie, and Randall. Who knows, but it is fun to see these photos and guess!! Cool detective work Mike! There's not many leaves on the trees so it's probably early spring and would align with the March 28, 1987 date.

A.C. Rich - 09/19/10 - 22:18

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Mystery Cistern

09/18/10 57 W, 1 I - + 4 - 4

We are definitely pushing the envelope for compelling blog content with three, count 'em three, mystery photos for the day. Better get more space for the web logs, as the hit counts are going to *skyrocket*. All things considered, it's better than a picture of a mystery cyst...



S28

yo - 09/22/10 - 13:02

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Durant Road EMS Station

09/18/10 53 W, 1 I - + 5 - 3

Here's the latest look at the Wake County EMS station under construction in the 10000 block of Durant Road. The facility will house EMS 15, which will be converted to a 24-hour unit when the station opens. [See this prior post](#) for more information and discussion therein. Click to enlarge:



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This Morning's House Fire on Leslieshire Drive

09/18/10 140 W, 1 I - + 5 - 3

Here's an early evening picture of the early morning fire at [9216 Leslieshire Drive](#), which is around the corner from Station 22. Two-story, brick-and-frame dwelling with 1,663 square-feet. Built 1994.

Engine 22 arriving with fire showing through second-floor window above the garage. Extended interior operations, with ladder pipe later used. Dispatched at 4:22 a.m. Controlled 5:28 ~~p.m.~~ a.m.

Units on scene included E22, E28, E19, E15, E25 (special called), L5, R1, B1, C10, C20, C40, A1, EMS 6, T1. Relief companies E11, E27, L1, E22 (C), L5 (C). No injuries. Cause under investigation.

Two occupants self-evacuated, after passing motorist saw the flames and heard smoke detectors inside. They awoke the residents, [reports this WRAL story](#).

There's also a fair amount of the radio traffic archived at on [this scanner archives site](#). Registration required. Click to enlarge:



"Dispatched at 4:22 a.m. Controlled 5:28 p.m."

Mike, I think you might want to check that

Paul - 09/19/10 - 08:27

And you should have seen the rehab required!! Thanks for catching, Paul.

Legeros - 09/19/10 - 08:36

so it requires a fee to listen to archived stuff?

scanner - 09/22/10 - 11:57

Climbing a 1,768 Foot Transmission Tower

09/19/10 95 W, 1 I - + 7 - 3

Here's your Sunday morning video treat. [Climbing a transmission tower](#). Height of 1,768 feet, which is still a couple hundred shorter than [WRAL's digital tower](#) in Auburn, meaning off Highway 70 east of Garner. Notes the helmet cam-clad commentator, they can see 55 miles to the horizon at the top. Best quote is toward the end. "This is the tricky part." Yeah, just that part. The climbers climb smack to the top. Stop watching if you feel faint! Thanks to Marshall for passing along.



When I used to climb as a teenager, this was always my dream job. As a middle-age guy who sits behind a desk for 12 hours a day, this scares the crap out of me :)

Building the tower must have been a fun process.

Paul - 09/19/10 - 11:23

I knew you would get a kick out of this Mike!

I downloaded the actual video and watching it full screen is an experience of vertigo for sure!

I would love to see the process of climbing back down...wish that had been captured on film.

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/19/10 - 11:39

I've been up WRAL and several of UNC-TV's 2000ft sticks in my time as a climber. After hanging outside the tower at 1700 or so feet to try to finagle a repeater cabinet out, around, and back into the tower around the waveguides, I can tell you firsthand that this is harrowing. I haven't had the pleasure of cresting any of the towers, but I'm sure that is just as harrowing, even for experienced climbers.

The elevator ride isn't exactly pleasant, either, as it's a cage of about 28 sq. ft. that resides within the tower framework. They're slow and bouncy, and susceptible to wind. And holy crap if you're up very far and the power fails!!! I was watching an episode of "World's Toughest Fixes" on NatGeo a while ago, and they did an antenna replacement on a 2000 ft tower somewhere in the midwest. They had to free-climb the entire height because they had to get a rope to the top to string a cable to hoist a gin pole system and a man-basket. The fix was replacing the TV antenna at the top. Check it out at the NatGeo website.

Duda - 09/20/10 - 11:13

I used to work for WFMX (FM 105.7) when they were a country station out of Statesville. I remember when a crew that was repainting our

1500 ft. tower fell from the top. They were doing the job without the proper safety gear. I'm in Davie County now (where the tower is located), and a couple of the rescue squad guys on the FD said the indentions were a couple feet into the soil. I think I'm gonna stay on the ground...

Barrett - 09/23/10 - 15:39

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Another Suspicious Fire [Not Really] Near Clayton

09/19/10 95 W, 1 I - + 8 - 3

Abandoned house at [738 Strickland Road](#). Reported about 11:00 p.m. last night. Wilson Mills, Smithfield, and Selma fire departments. Officials consider the fire "very suspicious," [reports this WRAL story](#). The building had been abandoned for decades. This is the ninth unoccupied home that's been intentionally set or suspected of same since October 2009. Yesterday's fire was three miles from Monday's suspicious fire in the Glen Laurel subdivision [reports WRAL. As reader comment's note, the actual distance is closer to 7 or 8 miles!]. [Read the entire story](#).



WRAL photo

After taking an Arson class from one of our WC-1's, I snicker everytime I read about a fire deemed "suspicious"...(as opposed to "under investigation")

rookie - 09/19/10 - 12:51

I concur rookie, that was one of the most frustrating things to deal with during my tenure as a fire investigator. Suspicious is not a cause of fire. The circumstances, however, can be "very suspicious" as the article notes. Unfortunately many tend to confuse the two.

AP - 09/19/10 - 20:07

Another great WRAL report...3 miles from Mondays fire in Glen Laurel?? Those two locations are more than 7 miles apart!!

JCFF - 09/20/10 - 00:45

Maybe it was 3 miles via Sky5!

JJ - 09/20/10 - 06:18

Posting updated accordingly.

Two fires in the county overnight! <http://www.newsobserver.com/2010/09/20/6..>

There's probably greater and will continue to be greater coverage of JC fires these days, due to the context of suspicious-ness.

mjl

Legeros - 09/20/10 - 07:12

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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It Was 57 Months Ago Today

09/21/10 213 W - + 12 - 1

Within a couple weeks, that is. Come December, this blog will be five years old. Can you believe it? These were the first posts during the last week of December 2005:

- **Philly Versus Raleigh**
Chart comparing the cities and their fire departments, in preparation for pending Fire Chief.
- **Xmas Lights at Station 11**
Picture that appeared on FireNews
- **Past Raleigh Fire Chiefs**
Plug for historical page.
- **Old Chapel Hill and Carrboro Stations**
Photos and information about old station buildings found during Mikey's holiday break.
- **CHFD Has Updated Their Web Site**
Self-explanatory, unless you don't know what CHFD means.
- **New Pierce Pumper for Apex**
Self-explanatory as well, and also.
- **KPS Station (Non) Update**
News on bids still being solicited for their public safety center. Knightdale.
- **MFD Station Drawings**
Planned multipurpose municipal building and drawings therein. Morrisville.
- **Bid Doc for EMS Mass Causality Unit**
Big ol' Truck 1.
- **Three (!) Stations for Six Forks EMS**
Complete with exclamation point.
- **WWFD Apparatus Updates**
As opposed to WWFR.
- **RFD Reserve Numbers Changing**
Because new 800mhz radios were coming in two weeks.
- **Harnett County Explorations**
More former fire station buildings found during Mikey's holiday break.
- **All RFD 800 Radios Have Been Issued**
Wither VHF.

Such simpler times. Such shorter posts. And all related to local fire and rescue!

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

NCSFA Hockey Night, Saturday, November 6

09/21/10 70 W, 1 I - + 4 - 6

The North Carolina State Firemen's Association is selling discount tickets to the Carolina Hurricanes versus the Florida Panthers at the RBC Center in Raleigh, on Saturday, November 6, 2010. Game time is 7:00 p.m. Lower-level tickets are \$50, regularly \$80. Upper-corner seats are \$19, regularly \$30. Deadline for orders is October 28. Proceeds from each ticket sold will benefit the NCSFA. [Order via this form.](#)



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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment: [/ Textile](#)

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Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - *Second Annual* « **NCSFA Hockey Night, S...** » **Sunday's Motor Home F...**
Rolesville Public Safety Golf Tournament, Wednesday, October 27

Second Annual Rolesville Public Safety Golf Tournament, Wednesday, October 27

09/21/10 73 W, 1 I - + 8 - 2

Rolesville area responders are sponsoring their second annual charity golf tournament at Zebulon Country Club on Wednesday, October 27. Registration and lunch are at 11:00 a.m. Tournament starts at 12:00 p.m. Same is Super Ball / Captain's Choice. Entry fee includes cart, green fees, goody bags, beverages, lunch, and dinner. Deadline for entries is October 22. [Register via this form.](#)



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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

Sunday's Motor Home Fire on Interstate 40

09/21/10 72 W, 1 I - + 6 - 4

[WTVD posted footage Sunday](#) of the motor-home fire on Interstate 40 near Highway 54. That's Engine 8 along with other units on scene. They made three trips on the big road that day. This incident, plus two accidents. The story includes an interview with the driver, and bystanders who stopped to assist. Right time, right place for the camera crew, that's for sure! Click to watch the video:



E8, Western Wake 196, E14, RPD. A house fire on wheels! An all around good job!

A.C. Rich - 09/21/10 - 21:53

Interesting!! Shoulda' had a ladder on that job!!!! A house is a house!!! Horizontal venting after knock down????

Hahahahahahahahaha.....Never seen one burning and always wondered if a full assignment (requiring a Dispatcher on their P's and Q's to realize this just ain't a car!) would go or if the standard one engine with a blocker.

Silver - 09/21/10 - 22:03

We actually did ladder the roof!

A.C. Rich - 09/21/10 - 22:14

Nice!! Interior Ops????

Silver - 09/21/10 - 23:22

My main question is about salvage and overhaul ;-)

I mean the occupants would want to salvage what can be saved right?

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/21/10 - 23:46

Maybe something in the glove box or fridge was salvageable???

Silver - 09/22/10 - 00:47

Were there any propane cylinders involved? I have heard that is one of the hidden dangers in the rear of an RV...

Bob P. - 09/22/10 - 06:31

LP – driver's side storage bay behind front wheel (no exposure) and the tank was isolated (valve closed) . Interior – heat/smoke damage

throughout and some salvagable items. If it was in a cabinet forward of the rear bedroom, it received mainly smoke damage. There were no significant interior ops – the main body of the fire burned up and out the rear. It was interesting, but the fire damage inside was minimal except at the rear where the master bedroom was located. More items were stored under the truck in the storage bays (similar to a bus).

A.C. Rich - 09/22/10 - 07:30

This may be a dumb question but on the vid it seems they are fighting it from the outside? Wouldnt it be best to fight from unburned to burned? Im sure this was considered but was it checked prior to the attack? Just wondering....Not Bashing

Unknown - 09/22/10 - 07:48

Rented one of these, not as big, in May for a baseball stadium trip on the East Coast. Naturally, as a firemanI checked it out and was amazed at the hidden dangers in these things. Just never really thought about them before...

Silver - 09/22/10 - 11:34

There goes \$100,000 up in flames.

Martinez ([Email](#)) - 09/22/10 - 12:05

looks like an engine compartment fire, which would be inaccessible from the inside... could be wrong...

CFP 7021 - 09/22/10 - 17:04

Wow... well, here's more for your enjoyment... There was minimal fire on the inside (see earlier post) as the fire originated from the engine compartment and extended quickly to the rear plastic gel-coated exterior. If there was significant fire in the inside of the vehicle, you would have seen a very rapid flame progression and roll-over out the door. As we know, the interiors of these vehicles are almost 100% synthetic and lightweight in nature.

Also, the vehicle interior was actually searched before the attack was made, even after the owners stated there was no one inside. Underneath the "plastic" rear exterior covering was a couple of layers of OSB sheeting and this separation material prevented significant fire extension into the interior. There was heat and smoke transfer into the interior via small openings in the rear corners at the roof and where the fire had began to breach the sheeting. If we had been about two minutes later, an interior attack would have been appropriate. However, and in this case, if an interior attack was made, the "seat of the fire" would have been untouched. Finally, the firefighter's attack location and water/foam stream placement was exactly where I told him. Regardless, it was still an interesting sight upon first arrival!

A.C. Rich - 09/22/10 - 23:46

Awesome!! Thanks for the info Cap'. Very helpful.

Silver - 09/22/10 - 23:56

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Old Water Tower (And Hose House) Could Be Yours

09/22/10 176 W, 2 I - + 5 - 4

[As today's News & Observer reports](#), Raleigh's old water tower on Morgan Street is again for sale. It was last sold in 1938, then donated to its current owner in 1963. The building is attached to a two-story brick structure that also the [oldest extant fire department building](#) in the city. Alas, the article doesn't mention this fact. The 1887 building was the first house of the Capital Hose Company.

Guess I need to do better on educating the public. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. I contacted them a couple years ago, suggesting they supplement their web page entry to include the fire department information.

They advised that that information is rarely updated, and thus the information would not be added. Next step, add a comment to the web page. Or maybe it's time for another letter to the editor! Here's our prior posting [about the building and its sale](#). Or read [today's N&O story](#).



North Carolina State Archives photo

This looks appropriate to submit to the newspaper:

One lesser-known fact about the old water tower building on West Morgan Street is that it's also the oldest extant fire department structure in the city. The tower and attached two-story building was built in conjunction with the 1887 water system. That system included the city's first fire hydrants. The city's volunteer firemen could now connect their hoses directly to the hydrants, and no longer needed their steam- and head-powered pumping engines to fight fires.

The attached building housed the Capital Hose Company, which formed that year. The first floor housed their hand-drawn hose reel on one side, and the water company office on the other. The door for the apparatus was later covered, and you can see the seams in the brick. The second floor served as a fireman's hall. The volunteer fire company moved across the street to 112 West Morgan Street in 1890, and into a new fire department headquarters building at the same location in 1896. That building was Raleigh's first Central Fire Station.

Mike Legeros
Raleigh Fire Department Historian
Raleigh

Legeros - 09/22/10 - 07:33

Whats the going price for a property such as this?

FD - 09/23/10 - 06:25

I have heard \$600-700K

Legeros - 09/23/10 - 06:26

Hey Mike...I know I'm being lazy, BUT do you have any old photos to compare the above pic with what it looked like back in the day?

HJ - 09/23/10 - 20:03

Ask and ye shall receive, <http://legeros.com/ralwake/raleigh/histo..>

Updated posting above. Thanks for asking.

Legeros - 09/23/10 - 20:07

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.

Hunt General Tire Company Warehouse, 1980

09/22/10 347 W, 2 I - + 7 - 7

Thirty years and one month ago. Three-alarms (?) at 424 S. McDowell Street on August 9, 1980. Hunt General Tire Company warehouse, a one-story building reported ablaze about 7:00 p.m. Flames shot five stories high through the roof. Poole's Luncheonette next door caught fire on their roof by 8 p.m. That building also suffered heavy smoke damage. Flames also spread to a one-story building that housed two law offices, and a fire and burglar alarm business. It was destroyed. Also damaged, mostly by smoke and water, were offices housing the county food stamp program.

More than 50 firefighters responded with four engines, three trucks, and two rescues. Ten firefighters were treated for heat exhaustion, smoke inhalation, and other minor injuries. Three were apparently injured when a section of the warehouse roof collapsed on them. Six were transported and later released. The fire was brought under control at 9:45 p.m. Fire losses were estimated at \$700,000, and more than 10,000 tires were destroyed. Units on scene included E1, E13, E3, E5, E4, E6, T1, T7 (service truck), T11 (service truck), T16, R_, C5 (District Chief).

"Stacks of tires [burned] like torches" reported the next day's *News & Observer*. Crews continued extinguishing fires inside the structure through the evening. "There's nothing you can do with a building full of tires," one firefighter was quoted as saying. A pillar of thick black smoke rose "high into the clear evening sky," noted the newspaper, "and the stench of burning tires spread throughout Raleigh." The fire attracted hundreds of spectators, and traffic was congested for blocks. The fire started in or near a small office used by the warehouse manager.

The operator of the fire and burglar alarm business said "it's ironic that I tried to sell the people on the block some fire alarms when I moved in" a few months earlier. Noted the *News & Observer*, the warehouse was not equipped with a fire alarm. The company's tire dealership was located two doors from the warehouse.





News & Observer photos

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Cooper Kenworth Fire in Durham, 1995 ?

09/22/10 132 W - + 6 - 7

A reader inquires about an incident from November 16, 1995, and availability of photographs therein. The Cooper Kenworth Company in northeastern Durham County, a truck dealership and service center located on a service road beside Interstate 85. Numerous fire departments on scene, including Redwood, Parkwood, Durham Highway. Maybe ten or abouts, total.

Bahama firefighters made national news due a close call. Explosion blew crews out of a service bay, and Asst. Chief Len Needham emerged covered in flames. He suffered a badly burned ear. Damages exceeded \$1 million. That's what we find searching the first paragraphs of stories on the Durham Herald web site. Google News gives bupkiss, however. We'll keep searching.

What do readers recall of this incident, both from news reports and firsthand experience? And does anyone have photos??

Stony Hill sent a tanker, but there are no pictures.

A.C. Rich - 09/22/10 - 23:48

I REMEBER THE CALL DURHAM HIGHWAY HAD A CREW INSIDE AND I REMEMBER A LOT OF PAINT CANS AND LP TANKS BLOWING OFF AROUND USE. THERE WERE ALL KINDS OF VEHICLES INSIDE. FORKLIFTS AND EVEN A GOLF CART. I DONT THINK I HAVE ANY PICS, BUT I WILL LOOK.

dhfd439 - 09/24/10 - 17:33

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

This Weekend's Events

09/23/10 82 W - + 5 - 3

Sep 25 - Sat

- Warrenton FD - Fireman's Day
Apparatus judging begins at 8:00 a.m. at fire station
Parade begins at 11:00 a.m. through downtown
Apparatus judging continues into afternoon
Field events begin at 1:30 p.m. at Warren County Fairgrounds
Awards are awarded at 5:00 p.m.

Sep 26 - Sun

- Stony Hill FD - Open House and Fire Prevention Day - Station 1 - 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Selma FD - Dedication of New Apparatus - 1:00 p.m. until whenever

Others?

34th Annual Craven Fire and Rescue College on Sept. 24-26 New Bern NC and Cove City's firemans day also is Sat. Sep.25

nbfrvolly - 09/23/10 - 07:40

St. Anne's International Festival

Joe Brady ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/23/10 - 16:15

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Caption This Photo

09/23/10 46 W, 1 I - + 6 - 6

Burned burn cell at the Wake County Training Center for a Wake County Fire Investigation Class as photographed by Lee Wilson as posted on this blog as viewed by you right now. [See the original photo.](#)



On sale now! Our new Cajun line of furniture, get'em while they're hot!

Burning Up - 09/23/10 - 20:19

Well...what had happened was..

CTK - 09/24/10 - 09:43

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'?

Police Officer

09/23/10 88 W, 1 I - + 6 - 4

Photographed by Legeros at [this morning's fire on Capital Boulevard](#). Simple picture, though it required a little luck. First, that the officer continued standing still in profile. Second, that no vehicles passed behind her. That's the challenge at emergency scenes. People are usually moving, and stuff's usually happening in the background. Such as vehicles on roadways. That's also why pictures of chiefs are often easier to take than those of indians. They're moving less on scene.



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.

Mystery Building

09/23/10 23 W, 1 I - + 6 - 2

Seen this structure under construction on Poole Road? The property's also the planned location for the replacement of Fire Station 12.



state-of-the-art transit operations center

<http://raleighnc.gov/projects/content/Pu..>

The transit operations center will be located on 23 acres at 4104 Poole Road, just east of the Interstate 440 Beltline. The facility will replace Capital Area Transit's (CAT) 30-year-old operations facility at 1430 S. Blount St. Construction of the new transit operations center is scheduled to be complete in the spring 2011.

The \$21 million transit operations center is being primarily funded by \$11.6 million from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, also known as the federal stimulus package. City and state funds also will be used on the project.

The transit operations center will consist of a 27,400-square-foot, two-story operations administration building; a single-story bus maintenance facility of 56,000 square feet; a 7,500-square-foot bus wash building; and a two-lane fueling depot building. The project also will include a bus shelter on Poole Road for CAT riders. The transit operations center will accommodate 125 buses, with the ability for expansion to 200 buses. The existing CAT operations facility on Blount Street can only accommodate up to 50 buses. With the additional space at the new transit operations center, CAT will be able to service more buses and make additional enhancements to its fleet to better accommodate riders. This, in turn, will improve CAT's productivity in the future as new routes are added and improvements to current routes are made.

Brasfield & Gorrie, LLC is the construction contractor for the transit operations center. The company is proposing to subcontract 21.1 percent of the work to Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE). This exceeds the City of Raleigh's goal of 15 percent MWBE participation for major construction projects.

2redline - 09/24/10 - 07:56

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Car 1

09/23/10 41 W, 1 I - + 9 - 6

Yup, tonight was Fire Commission night. Highlights forthcoming. You know you need a life when you find amusement in taking pictures of license plates... Or municipal construction sites... Or police officers directing traffic...



fuquay car 1

hs - 09/23/10 - 23:45

Fuquay Car 1, I have seen that tag many times while holding a wash brush

FireDogg1232 - 09/24/10 - 20:07

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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present-day surroundings. Very interesting!

CJ - 09/24/10 - 20:32

That photo is from 1940, I believe. Station 1 hadn't been built yet. The tracks leading into the station are nearly entirely gone, though there are a couple rails still in the pavement over there today! Don't remember which street.

Legeros - 09/24/10 - 22:09

The tracks running into the station are parallel to Martin Street. On the right the old bridge from Boylan Ave to Martin Street. Most of the buildings in the photo are still standing. The tall building, The Professional Bldg. top left. ca1927. The cone shaped roof in the center is the Park Hotel, now parking for N&O corner of McDowell and Martin. You can see the top of the Old Post Office just to the right. According to tax property maps, the fire station was built in 1952 and Union Station 1892 (wikipedia says 1890). The Capital Feed building is still there. I think the photo may be from later than 1940, perhaps the middle of the decade. It is difficult to see, but doesn't look like there are any "post war" cars in the lot.

Larry - 05/27/11 - 22:37

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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World's Smallest Movie

09/24/10 16 W - + 8 - 6

Google the title for more. Watch this [making-of movie](#). Happy Friday.

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Attic Fire Video

09/26/10 103 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

For your Sunday discussion, from a reader, here's a [video of an attic fire in Indiana](#). We'll leave the department unnamed, and spare them the hits from web searches. Ladder placement, hose placement, ventilation technique, etc. Well-captured in the video, though perhaps not as well-executed as desirable. How useful are videos such as these for training and education? Do they result in learning and awareness and critical thinking? Or is it more pile-upon for things not done right in the eyes of the viewer? Discuss as desired, both the video and the use of the videos. Click to watch:



And I thought after all these years I'd seen it all. Nope. Not yet. :-

dc - 09/26/10 - 10:18

I like the guy who looked into the vent hole....w/o an air pack

Zack a - 09/26/10 - 14:27

Cut the vent hole and then fight the attic fire through the hole. Interesting strategy. Guess the doors to the house were locked or something.

Andy - 09/26/10 - 16:03

Classic!!!

A.C. Rich - 09/26/10 - 16:37

I found this video last night on you tube after about four hours of watching fire videos. So, I decided to send it to a few of the younger folks at my department to see if they could point out what was done right or wrong. Some people saw some things that others did not. But the one thing that quite a few people have noticed is how cool, calm and collective everyone appears to be. No matter how bad of a job anyone of them is doing, no one is "spinning." I found that kind of odd.

Marcus - 09/26/10 - 20:24

What is with the white helmet getting into the vent opening on the roof, WTF!!!

JA - 09/28/10 - 09:07

The axe still starts evvertime. Chief must have some of that new low profile invisible SCBA

Rob Mitchell - 09/28/10 - 10:49

Or, this is why the Ladders and Rescues should crank their saws daily and run them wide open. Unbelievable tactics, but seeing is believing.

Silver - 09/28/10 - 15:31

Wouldn't it have been easier/quicker just to bust out a window and go inside? It seems that from a technique point of view there's lot of examples here of what not to do, although I personally wouldn't know good from bad if it bit me in the ass. But from a pure speed standpoint, it seems they take forever screwing around on the roof.

Paul - 09/28/10 - 19:38

Seems to be a good attic fire going and hasn't self vented, which would be a perfect time to open the roof QUICKLY, OVER THE FIRE. The key here is training, training, training. Throw a ladder, ascend the roof, cut it and get off. At the same time, crews on the interior dropping the ceilings to gain access and a well trained nozzleman can knock this thing out.

While horizontal venting is a quick way to vent a dwelling, initially in this case it wouldn't really help much. Once the Brothers make a knock, taking a few windows would be ok to rid of any heat/steam/crap that decided to drop versus exit the vent hole.

Silver - 09/28/10 - 21:58

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E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Fire at Five Points

09/26/10 120 W, 1 I - + 6 - 3

Weather's finally cooler. Clouds coming into the sky. Crews in northern Wake County have been working a woods fire for the last couple hours. Stony Hill and a mess of other departments for manpower. They've also got a Public Safety Day planned for this afternoon at Station 1. Closer to home, a fire at Five Points closed a lane of traffic inbound on Glenwood Avenue. That's Ladder 4, Engine 6, and Rescue 3 shown below. Fire on the exterior of a service station. [Here are some photos](#), and with one of the cameras slightly overexposing the shots. Forgot to reset the settings after last night's tromping around Fayetteville Street. Hate when that happens.



Eye protection and gloves???

Be careful - 09/26/10 - 19:01

I'll put a few things out there to consider and discuss;

- 1) Put that truck in the parking lot, consider operating from the bucket and the roof too. A bucket is a much more safe platform to work from.... excellent multiple egress options, but it would be optimum to have five rungs over the roof line for when you make the transition from roof to ladder.
- 2) A perfect example of how NOT to foot a portable ladder.
- 3) "Drop-starting" a saw is an unsafe practice and should be avoided at ALL costs. You have zero control as you "drop" it to make your pull. Start the damn thing on the ground, engage the brake, then ascend the ladder and cut.
- 4) Not big on anonymous postings, as we all know, especially critical ones.

Silver - 09/27/10 - 20:38

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

The Fire of 1851 - The Narrative

09/26/10 220 W, 3 I - + 6 - 5

Time for some *really* old-school firefighting. Back before the city's first paid firefighters. Back before the first fire hydrants. Even earlier than the first steam fire engine. Let's climb into our stainless-steel DeLorean and travel with Doc Brown back to 1851. That's the year of the city's last great fire.

Seventeen buildings burned on Fayetteville, Hargett, and Wilmington Streets. The aftermath was an outcry by officials and citizens, and which resulted in drastic improvements to the city's capability for fighting fires. It also resulted in the first version of the Raleigh Fire Department as it's known today.

Mr. Blogger had been researching same for a couple years now, and has finally completed a formal essay on same: [The Fire of 1851](#) . But let's call it a monograph. That's a fancier title.

The 33-page document includes footnotes and full references for all sources. Same style as his previous essay, [Birth of a Fire Department](#) . Though quite a bit more dry. And all linked with other writings on my [RFD history site](#).

Don't know if it would grade highly in a college history course, but it's an honest attempt at professional presentation. Got to play in the scholarly sandbox for a bit. The essay is version 1.0. Slight edits and corrections may appear later. Read and enjoy.



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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Then & Now Recruitment Ad

09/26/10 32 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

Hiring for firefighters in 1962 and 2010. [Read about](#) the Raleigh Fire Department in the 1960s. [Learn more](#) about becoming a Raleigh firefighter. Click once or twice to enlarge:



Wow, I actually had to stop and think for a while whether \$312 and \$282 were per week or per month. Even at a per-week rate, it's pretty low, compared to today's salaries. And what's with the height/weight requirement? It's not clear if they're minimum or maximums (or both?!). Good stuff!

rfburns - 09/26/10 - 19:07

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

1951 Ward LaFrance Open Cab Pumper

09/27/10 95 W, 1 I - + 10 - 3

Newly added to the man cave collection. First Gear 1:24 scale replica of a 1951 Ward LaFrance pumper that served Perry, IA. Available only through the [Perry Fire Department](#). See more photos, as well as the original rig, on [this web site](#). You can also order on the second site. The model replicates the apparatus in its later years, after a blue beacon was added as requirement for lighting. Not many scale models of Ward LaFrance apparatus out there, beyond the Ertl quad and the Code 3 custom-cab pumper! Click to enlarge:



Awesome truck...just like the real ones. Got to drive a real one similar to this one years ago. Nothing like listening to that Waukesha motor turning over, driving around in the open cab, and when running the pump at night looking at the exhaust manifold and watch it glow... The Wards, Seagraves, Pirsches, Maxims, Crowns, and the older ALFs (up to about the 900 series) had a true elegance that today's look-alike fire trucks just can't compare with.

DJ - 09/27/10 - 19:51

Very nice. I don't want to even ask how much that cost.

BTW, I picked up one of those Matchbox RWR Colet Jaguars at Wal Mart on a lucky whim "for my son".

Duda - 09/28/10 - 08:37

They're \$45 plus shipping, I believe.

Legeros - 09/28/10 - 09:11

She is a beauty!! Are the still available? About a year ago I started a Fire truck (die-cast) collection, and I think she will be a perfect addition to my collection!!! Thank you for sharing!!!

Don Cullemer ([Email](#)) - 01/01/15 - 15:56

HI guys, this truck is still available. If you would like one let me know I can arrange delivery. Thanks Brian Eiteman Asst. Chief Perry Fire Firehunter702@yahoo.com

Perry Fire Department - 02/13/16 - 11:47

RAPS Race, Friday, October 1, 3:00 p.m.

09/27/10 67 W - + 7 - 8

The next [Raleigh Area Public Safety Racing League](#) (RAPS) endurance kart race is this Friday, October 1, 2010. The event begins at 3:00 p.m. with practice and team qualifying. The 90-minute endurance race begins at 6:00 p.m. The entry fee is \$150 per team, payable the day of the race. The location is Rush Hour Karting at [5335 Raynor Road](#) in Garner. Zoom, zoom, zoom.

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Pictures From Hurricane Fran?

09/27/10 65 W - + 6 - 4

Does anyone have pictures from Hurricane Fran that depicts damage to fire, EMS, or law enforcement vehicles or buildings? And that they'd be willing to share for a project that a nearby emergency agency is working on? [Mail Mike](#) for more details. And if permission's granted on all fronts, we'll compile and post the best of them. Thanks for your help.

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Raleigh Municipal Building

09/28/10 53 W, 1 I - + 11 - 8

Found for sale on eBay, here's an undated view of Raleigh's Municipal Building. Built in 1960, it housed the police department and other city offices. It also housed the first Emergency Communications Center, in the following decade. Here's an [interesting blog post](#) about the building's history. Click to slightly enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

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This Weekend's / Fire Prevention Week Events (Updated)

09/30/10 275 W - + 14 - 12

Oct 1 - Fri

- [RAPS Race](#) - Rush Hour Karting, Garner - 3:00 p.m. qualifying, 6:00 racing

Oct 2 - Sat

- Cary FD - [Cary Safety Festival](#) - Bond Metro Park - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Garner FD - [Fireman's Day](#) - Station 1 - 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., parade at 2:00 p.m.
- Morrisville FD - [Fire Safety Day](#) - Food Lion shopping center, Highway 54 - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Pilot FD (Franklin) - Barbecue Fundraiser - 11:00 a.m. until...
- Red Oak FD (Nash) - Open House - 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - Showcasing their new station

Oct 3 - Sun

- Bay Leaf FD - Open House - Station 1 - 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Louisburg FD - Open House - 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Raleigh FD - Open House - All stations - 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Oct 5 - Tues

- Raleigh FD - Kid's night at Chik-Fil-A - Capital Crossing and Falls Village locations

Oct 7 - Thurs

- Raleigh FD - Display at Crabtree Valley Mall

Oct 8 - Fri

- Raleigh FD - Display at Crabtree Valley Mall

Oct 9 - Sat

- Creedmoor FD - [Fireman's Day](#) - 3:00 p.m. parade, followed by meal at South Granville High School
- Fuquay-Varina FD - [Open House](#) - Station 1 - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Parkwood FD - [BBQ Cook-Off](#) - Station 1 - 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Princeton FD (Johnston) - [5K Fundraiser Run](#) - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Raleigh FD - Display at Crabtree Valley Mall

Oct 10 - Sun

- Raleigh FD - [Recruitment](#) Open House at all stations - 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Open Houses for Raleigh FD = Sunday, October 3rd from 1p-5p, per city e-mail.

Silver - 09/29/10 - 23:50

Red Oak Fire Department, Nash County, Open House Oct 2, Saturday 4-7, showcasing their brand new 2.2m fully sprinklered station.....

Red Oak FD - 09/30/10 - 03:58

Thanks Jeff, corrected! Here's a WRAL story about other events during FP week, [http://www.wral.com/lifestyles/goaskmom/..](http://www.wral.com/lifestyles/goaskmom/)

Legeros - 09/30/10 - 05:44

Cary FD start time 1pm?

BW - 09/30/10 - 18:52

Wrong! Missing a digit there. 10:00 start time. Thanks for catching. Updated.

Legeros - 09/30/10 - 20:10

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Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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New Ambulances For Wake County EMS

09/29/10 55 W, 1 I - + 12 - 6

As photographed by Lee Wilson this week, here are a few of the eleven (!) new ambulances being delivered to Wake County EMS. They're Type III modular units with a 170-inch box on a Chevrolet 4500 chassis, built by [McCoy Miller](#) in Elkhart, IN. Click to enlarge:



Lee Wilson photo

I thought Wake EMS was buying all new heavy duty buses, similar to the current EMS 1?

wondering - 09/29/10 - 20:43

Yeah...agree with the above statement. But the Chevy's look good. And why the switch from the Ford chassis on the type 3

Buckwheat - 09/29/10 - 21:42

Congrats to WCEMS. The trucks look great and I hope the Chevs will provide good service!

A.C. Rich - 09/29/10 - 22:43

Many EMS fleets have been having problems mechanically with their ford chassis. these new chevy chassis are supposed to be better and more dependable.

charlie - 09/30/10 - 05:08

Charlie i right. The Ford E series has been causing numerous problems and headaches for years. It seems you fix them and the same thing breaks down again. Sometimes they won't start, or they lose power, or any one of many other problems. But for the most part, unless you wanted to go medium duty (Freightshaker, Ihop, etc) you did not have much choice. GM is finally getting back into the market in a big way. Cary has several, Six Forks has two (with another coming), and Apex just took delivery of a Chevy chassis with a remounted Wheeled Coach box. It should be in service pretty soon. I'll get Mike a couple of pics soon.

DJ - 09/30/10 - 14:54

Agree with above statements. A major problem lies in the Powerstroke engine. Too many different models of the engine for the past few years. Even the newly-released Powerstroke that Ford designed is already having piston rod issues. The Duramax engine that comes with the GM is proven reliable and nearly bulletproof.

RescueRanger - 09/30/10 - 20:30

The 6.0 liter diesel van chassis (E350 and E450) were/are the subject of a national class action lawsuit. We hope that the Chevy engine will prove more reliable – and it is in a Chevy chassis that is the same class as the E450 – I think this is the first year for the Chevy 14,000 lb chassis. Standing by to see if our hopes come true.

We're buying enough medium duty ambulances to be able to do a serious comparison of reliability, economy, and functionality. The next 3 (after the 11 Chevys) will be medium-duty on International chassis. Hopefully, each generation brings some improvement over the last.

Lots of talk about an ambulance built on what is now the most reliable truck chassis – the Isuzu!

CH100 - 09/30/10 - 22:14

Thanks for the 411, Chief! Especially since we know that no vehicles can be placed in service around here, unless the blog community approves of or at least is informed of the decision!

Legeros - 10/01/10 - 07:17

has anyone looked at the spartan medium duty chasis instead of freight/internat?

charlie3 - 10/02/10 - 05:04

We sure have, Charlie. It is WAY expensive (\$30-50K more than existing medium duty trucks), but the truck has great appeal. I especially like the 4-door cab, so everybody (trainees, college students and interns, observers, family members) can be belted in and facing forward. We've looked at it at several conferences, and Southeastern (our current vehicle vendor) has one on their lot in Youngsville. It will be interesting to see if anybody buys them, and what sort of business case can be made – do they last longer, get better fuel economy, ride better, have more storage, etc.

CH100 - 10/02/10 - 08:26

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Selma Super Pumper, 1985

09/29/10 81 W, 1 I - + 11 - 6

Found for sale on eBay, here's an advertisement from Emergency Equipment Inc. in Raleigh. The 1985 apparatus is described as an EEI Super Pumper mounted on a Duplex D-350 chassis. Custom manufactured for the Town of Selma, North Carolina, pursuant to N.C. League of Municipalities specifications. Equipped with Hale 1,500 GPM pump, 750 gallon tank, twin booster reels mounted in rear compartments, top-mount control panel, rear canopy, crosslay, telescoping lights powered by Hale 5000-watt generator. Click to slightly enlarge:



What a find Mike!!! Still is in tip top shape minus a few scratches here and there. This truck has been running as the first out mutual truck for the past several monthes, but with the arrival of our new engine she has been placed in the response down the line a little.

Adam Brown - 09/29/10 - 21:28

Hey Adam just curious, which and what kind of pumper did yall replace with the new engine 11?

Car 1 - 09/29/10 - 21:55

Engine 11 is a 2010 Pierce Contender. This is a straight engine, no dump valve and we also choose not to place a booster reel on board. The pump is a 1500/1000 hale side mount. Ladders are on the exterior passenger side, Foam Pro, two cross lays above the pump panel, 6 kw hydraulic generator, two head night scan, 1500 watt brow light, All Whelen led lighting, we carry 1000' 5", 400' 3" to a gated wye, 2 100' 1 3/4" lines with 1 from the gated wye one dead load, a 200' 2 1/2" rear pre-connect with smooth bore, the two cross lays are 1 3/4" with elkhart nozzles that break apart for fog or smooth bore tips, the front bumper has a 2 1/2" discharge w/ gated wye with a 100' 1 3/4" in the center tray and the addition of 100' 1" forestry line in the right side tray, carry basic cribbing ie step chocks, 4x4s and a sawzall, basic tools carried in the cab, Officer has the thermal, flashlight and portable radio mounted for quick access, rear facing officer side seat has a water can flashlight and Irons mounted for quick access, rear facing drivers side seat has flashlight mounted for quick access, two forward facing seats are rarely used, a roof hook is mounted on the rear of the cab wall exterior passenger side again for easy access. We have basic engine company tools mounted in compartments ranging from additional nozzles to forestry rakes.

When the apparatus spec committee was put together, we brain stormed several ideas that lead to where we are at today operationally. We set our apparatus numbering up for future stations along with developing a base guideline for firefighter duties on the fire ground based on where they ride the apparatus.

This engine replaced a 1999 crew cab international, known as engine 5, engine had a 1500/1000 Waterous top mount pump with dump valve, the engine had a stretched cab, along with the top mount and rescue style body made the engine a long engine measuring some where around 35-36 feet long and the turning radius of several football fields, this engine being newer than the one above just didn't suit what or needs and demands are.

Our current apparatus roster consists of the following:

Engine 10 2004 Pierce Enforcer 1500/1000 waterous side mount (Pumper/Tanker)

Engine 11 2010 Pierce Contender 1500/1000 Hale side mount (Engine)

Engine 12 1984 EEI/Duplex 1500/750 Hale Top Mount (Engine)

Ladder 10 1991 E-ONE Cyclone 1500/500 75' stick Hale Side mount (Ladder)

Truck 10 2001 Pierce Saber Non Walk-in rescue

Brush 7 1999 f-350 dually with skid unit

Foam 6 1991 Chevy Kodiak with 500 gallon foam cell permanent mounted deluge gun and two permanent mounted foam eductor 1-1 3/4" 1- 2 1/2"

Chief 1 2004 F-150 crew cab.

Our in district structure fire response is broke down as

Engine 11, Engine 10, Ladder 10, Engine 12, Truck 10

Our mutual aid response is

Engine 10, Engine 12 or what ever is requested.

Hope this helps!!

Adam Brown - 09/30/10 - 00:25

the New engine 11 is an awesome looking piece of apparatus!

charlie - 09/30/10 - 05:09

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Mystery Clouds

09/30/10 28 W, 1 I - + 5 - 12

For a while there they looked hand-painted. Where was this picture taken tonight? And which includes a wee bit of digital obfuscation. Click to enlarge:



That looks like the roof of station 1...

Rhodes - 09/30/10 - 21:20

...must have been getting the Volley ball.

Jake T. - 09/30/10 - 21:57

I would say no on St 1...looks like the RBC high rise in the background, so it must of been outside of the downtown area. Not sure where though, perhaps near NCSU?

CJ - 10/01/10 - 06:21

Looks like Cameron Village

CP - 10/01/10 - 07:15

The picture was taken from this parking deck in Cameron Village. What gave it away for me was the First Citizens bank to the right in the picture. I just looked up the locations in Raleigh and found that one located on Park Ave. then used Bing to discover the location of the photo. FYI-Google just released updated satellite imagery on Google Maps which were taken sometime between May-July of 2010.

<http://www.bing.com/maps/?v=2&cp=pyygmt8..>

RescueRanger - 10/01/10 - 12:43

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Hawaiian Ragtime

09/30/10 61 W - + 14 - 9

Explosive collision of musical styles from 1965 in this clip from *The Lawrence Welk Show*. Don't ask how it was found. That's [Jo Ann Castle](#) on the piano and [Buddy Merrill](#) on the steel guitar. Those backing musicians are rocking out, aren't they? Guess our parents, or their parents, loved the show. Happy Friday in a few hours.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Flooding

09/30/10 54 W, 1 I - + 10 - 11

The *Star-News* has a [gallery of good photos](#) of the flooding that's hit the Wilmington area. Highest amount of rainfall in their history, over 21 inches. That tops the 19-inch record from five days of Hurricane Floyd in 1999. The below picture shows conditions in Carolina Beach. They're underwater there.



Mike Spencer/Star-News photo

Some very serious flooding in the Windsor, NC area, as well. TF 10 assisting, as I understand.

dlh - 10/01/10 - 13:06

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Chief Officer Survival: Crisis Communications for Chief EMS Officers

10/01/10 185 W - + 5 - 7

That's the title of a class being taught this week at the [EMS Expo 2010](#) in Dallas, and by our very own Wake County EMS Chief Skip Kirkwood. Here's a [nifty article on Firehouse.com](#) (and drawn from their sister site [EMSWorld](#)) about the class, the story behind the development (missing laptop and publicity therein), and the lessons learned from that incident ("fess up, apologize, and tell people what you plan to do in the future.")

Chief Kirkwood's presentation, notes the story, was "aimed at EMS providers" but applies all agencies in public service, "including police and fire." Among the many pieces of good advice are proactive internal strategies. "We have a no surprise policy," he's quoted in the article as saying. "Every member of the department has a responsibility to notify their supervisor when something happens... If you are going to manage a problem you have got to know about it."

News about news about news. Sounds like a cool class. [Read the entire story.](#)

Great lessons from Chief Kirkwood. Not to sound like a sycophant but it is refreshing to have someone in charge that is honest and upfront about mistakes and how they learned from them and teaching others how to handle these situations. Mega Kudos Chief! Glad Wake Co has you around!

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 10/01/10 - 21:26

Indeed Marshall. Skip's comments in the article are dead-on in my opinion. We really tend to make "things" harder than they should be, when simple honesty and common sense is quite often the best option. Other emergency services leaders in Raleigh and Wake County could truly benefit their organizations and our system by simply modeling some of these behaviors.

A.C. Rich - 10/01/10 - 21:55

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'?

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

Why We Blog About What We Blog About

10/01/10 578 W - + 5 - 8

Continuing on the subject of communication... What about this blog and how it conducts itself? We meaning me doesn't think of himself as a citizen journalist. Not really. What we feature on the blog is probably too one-sided. You don't read about certain types of bad news on the blog. Notably personnel actions, and even certain types of agency problems. The scope of that restriction can be very localized. We've blogged about agency issues in Orange County, for example. But similar issues in Wake County have gone unmentioned. Is that fair? Good question.

As a blogger, Yours Truly is always learning. The postings and writing and editing styles and even simply the story selection have varied as the months and years have passed. We've presumably been getting better, but also changing and adapting and evolving in other ways. Posts from 6/12/18/24 months ago are different from today's. There's also a heavier or stronger local filter because things ultimately feel "too close to home." Maybe we're drinking the Kool-Aid, or wearing a shade of rose-colored glasses. But when you know so many of the people involved, it's wrenching to write about (and even read about!) their bad news. Another factor is value.

Does blogging about Something Bad add value, either in disseminating the information or facilitating the discussion therein? Methinks not, or not enough to warrant. Our readers and the responder community is already aware When Things Happen. They're reading the same stories, or at least have access to the same stories. (Not everyone is compelled to dig around news sites and the Internet site, mind you. Nor do they spend all hours of all days at a computer, and connected to the Internet.) Dipping into that well doesn't seem worth doing. So we don't.

The blog is a lark, a learning experience, a platform for presentation, a discussion forum, an announcement board, and a venue for shameless self-promotion. The readership hangs around 1,000 each day. Lots of locals, but some or maybe many elsewhere. Are they hour, daily, or weekly readers? Don't know. The number of lurkers far exceeds the posters of comments. That's a no-brainer. Does the general public read the thing? Joe and Jane Six-Pack? Don't know. We have seen postings a couple times from citizens who had had house fires. They added positive comments about their loss, and appreciation for the responders who responded.

We get search hits and subsequent comments from time to time. Person uses Google and finds an older posting, and adds a perspective therein. Plus Yours Truly uses the thing all the time as an archive of his own thoughts, and factoids. I am always doing searches on odd historical facts, that I recorded or logged on the blog. It's a great place to permanently "jot stuff down." Does the blog have the potential to "explode," and suddenly attracted hundreds or thousands of readers? Or drawn the sudden attention of the local media outlets? Maybe. I mean, anything's possible. But day to day, and perhaps until the last day, the blog is a smaller and more-closed entity.

Yeah, we're still making it all up as go. But at least there's five years of experience under our belts. Hopefully the tone and style and "in general all about it" is reasonably consistent. If nothing else, we've become masters at talking in the third-person! Say good night, Mike.

Mike – Your effort here actually serves an essential purpose for our local emergency responders. A blended posting approach of the controversial along with the mundane not only attracts readers (namely emergency responders) but also allows folks to (hopefully) respectfully “vent” and or otherwise offer their perspectives, maybe some FACTS, and even present inquiries. Anonymity is not too bad, but can be problematic in some cases. In the least, the blog is entertainment for many, however I personally view it as opportunity to legitimately educate readers on facts rather than perceptions or rumors. You mentioned “VALUE” in you comments... it is indeed a key word we all to often fail to recognize; AND even understand its dramatic effects on personal perspectives.

A.C. Rich - 10/01/10 - 17:03

Name: (real name preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes

Mystery Bay

10/01/10 37 W, 1 I - + 10 - 5

Where be this bay door? There are a couple clues in the photo. Though, knowing our readers, it'll be solved in mere minutes. No flies on this crowd!



Are those railroad tracks in the reflection?

Emily - 10/01/10 - 21:21

the old Y

lee - 10/02/10 - 00:00

that is a bay from western wake fire station 2 or what used to be station2

charlie - 10/02/10 - 01:58

That's too easy. Its the bay under Cary FD Admin, and that's the restored Seagrave pumper contained therein.

And that's Cary town hall in the reflection over the tracks.

Old YRAC/WW2 has all glass doors (except the bottom row).

CFP 7021 - 10/02/10 - 09:52

I realize I could have concealed the window reflection, but what fun would that have been?

Legeros - 10/02/10 - 09:56

I was seriously considering one of the bays behind Apex Station #1, but I guess Shev nailed it.

Silver - 10/02/10 - 14:57

Name: (real name
preferred)

Remember personal info?

Mystery Sign

10/01/10 33 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

What's being advertised by this sign? Hint, it happens Saturday, October 2, at Highway 50 and Main Street. Raise your hand if you need more help.



Garner Fireman's Day Parade?

RescueRanger - 10/01/10 - 19:23

Garner Fireman's Day – Garnerfire.com

2redline - 10/01/10 - 21:59

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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Yes

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Comment:

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National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend

10/01/10 342 W, 8 I - + 10 - 2

[Live video coverage](#) of this weekend's 2010 National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend is again available on the Internet. Thanks to Motorola and WUSA 9 for making that happen. The live feed is also being carried by numerous fire and EMS web sites.

The **Candlelight Service Broadcast** begins at 6:00 p.m. EST on Saturday, October. The telecast starts at 6:45 p.m., and the service begins at 7:00 p.m. The **Memorial Service Broadcast** begins at 9:00 a.m. EST on Sunday, October 3. The telecast begins at 9:30 a.m., and the service begins at 10:00 a.m.

This weekend's service will honor 105 firefighters who died in the line of duty, 80 who died in 2009 and 25 who died in prior years. They include five that died in North Carolina, which experienced the third-highest number of fatalities last year as [reported by the USFA this week](#). The federal agency has released its report on [Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2009](#).

As noted in this [NFFF press release](#) and [NFFF photo roll of honor](#), the North Carolina firefighters being honored are listed below. They were also recognized in May by the [North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Foundation](#), at the annual service at the North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Raleigh.

Firefighter Gregory C. Cooke, age 60

Salem Volunteer Fire Department.

Died after collapsing at the scene of a woods fire on March 21, 2009.


Chief Jimmy Lee Davis Sr., age 63

White Oak Volunteer Fire Department

Died after collapsing while preparing to respond to a motor vehicle accident on December 10, 2009.


Deputy Chief Chad Eric Greene, age 34

Union Cross Fire and Rescue of Forsyth County, Inc.

Died after collapsing within 24 hours of a response to a motor vehicle accident on November 4, 2009.


Engineer William Gray Parsons, age 58

Millers Creek Volunteer Fire Department

Died after suffering a medical emergency at the scene of a structure fire on February 1, 2009.


Firefighter Matthew Douglas Tramel, age 18

Pembroke Fire Department

Died in a personal vehicle accident while responding for a vehicle fire on June 5, 2009.



Fire Dancer

10/02/10 59 W, 1 I - + 11 - 7

Here's a different kind of action shot, as photographed this evening. There was a troupe of fire-dancing hula-hoopers entertaining crowds at a street fair on Hargett Street. Tried a variety of camera and external flash settings for these. This one's Program AE with 1600 ISO and no flash. Either turned off or didn't fire. 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.

Night in the City

10/02/10 59 W, 1 I - + 4 - 5

And a bit after the hula-hoopers doused their flames, this motor-vehicle accident occurred opposite the street fair on Hargett Street. That's Engine 3 and EMS 8. Still shooting with 1600 ISO and again no flash. Ambient light was pretty good, at least if the camera was pointed in the right direction. Click to enlarge:



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

Remember personal info?

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 No

Comment:

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Water Rescues in Windsor

10/02/10 191 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

[WRAL has great coverage](#) of yesterday's water rescues in Windsor, and other eastern North County locations. By last night, over 100 people had been rescued and over 100 buildings in Windsor and Bertie County had been surrounded by water. Among the rescue sites was an assisted living center in Windsor. Between 40 and 50 residents were evacuated due to rising water.

One business owner in Windsor said "water rose 20 inches an about an hour." The Cashie River there was 15.69 feet at 5 p.m. on Friday. It's next highest level was 18.52 feet, when it crested after Hurricane Floyd in 1999. Other coast and eastern counties had evacuations due to flooding, said state officials. Beaufort, Craven, Duplin, and Pender counties. Such as dozens from a trailer park in Beaufort County, and some 50 people from homes in New Bern.

Officials predict parts of Burgaw, Elizabethtown, Smithfield, Goldsboro, Kinston, Tarboro, and Windsor will face more flooding into early next week. The Neuse River in Kinston, for example, isn't expected to crest until Tuesday night and at about three feet about flood stage. [Read the story and watch the footage.](#)



Tom Normanly/WRAL photo

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Private Jet Skids Into Croatan Sound

10/02/10 64 W, 1 I - + 6 - 6

[That's the headline from WRAL](#), and showing this photo of a private jet that skidded off the runway at Dare County Regional Airport in Manteo on Friday morning. Seven souls aboard. Five transported with non life-threatening injuries. Boat carrying firefighters is labeled RIFD. What is Roanoake Island Fire Department? Good photo! Click to slightly enlarge:



WRAL Photo

<http://rivfd.com/>

RWECC - 10/02/10 - 11:27

Full Turnout Gear for a water rescue??? Odd, but maybe the way they do things.

7721 - 10/02/10 - 14:43

Thought that was a no-no...

Silver - 10/02/10 - 14:58

That is a big NO-NO! If they were to fall in, they'd be done! And no PFD's! I'm not bashing; just want people to think and not make the same mistake!

Rhodes - 10/02/10 - 17:44

Yeah, thought that was pretty much the first thing they taught you in Water Rescue Awareness class.

Silver - 10/02/10 - 22:19

You know, sometimes certain things tend to 'stick' with us for a long time, even to the point of overshadowing 'new' stuff. I remember a video from back in the late 70s or early 80s that said wearing turnout gear when forced into a water rescue situation without 'proper preparation', i.e. a real water rescue operation, was THE thing to do. There was even a short piece that highlighted a firefighter, in full gear, 'falling off' of a boat into the water.

Of course, it might have worked better then since turnout gear was not 'breathable'...

I do think, in the absence of a readily available, fully equipped, dispatchable at a moment's notice (and able to get en route in that moment's notice), that every emergency apparatus (EMS, fire, LEO) needs to have basic water rescue gear. I know WCEMS carries flotation vests and a single throw rope on every ambulance and DC vehicle.

What else is out there?

DJ - 10/02/10 - 22:59

Raleigh FD; every rig has a basic water rescue bag consisting of a few PFD's and a throw bag....gotta' knock the dust of the thing though ;D .

Silver - 10/02/10 - 23:16

There has to be more to our observations in this case. Any coastal department is going to have aquatic awareness and presumably survival skills for when water situations require PPE. How do they fight boat fires, for example? Wonder also if they are wearing float vests under their coats. (Is such a thing done, asks this landlubber?)

Legeros - 10/02/10 - 23:34

Cary FD has PFDs, helmets and throw bags on every truck.

Western Wake just purchased equipment to meet the light rescue standard and has pfd's, throw bags and helmets on the 1st due rescue and engine.

This was also the first thing I noticed about this picture. We have to remember that Structural Firefighters Protective Garments, are just that... structural firefighting gear... not suitable for everything we do on the job. Wear the right gear for the task at hand.

CFP 7021 - 10/03/10 - 10:49

Moville has the basics as well on every first out piece of equipment. 4 PFDs w/ whistle; strobe; knife; 2 carabiners; 2 prusiks on each PFD, 2 throw bags; 4 helmets and gloves in each bag with one bag on each engine and ladder.

Spanky - 10/03/10 - 11:18

Great PPE discussion. Just curious, what are the PPE standards across the areas departments for other calls? Say a woods fires, power lines down, EMS calls, motor vehicle accidents, confined space rescues, trench rescues (or recoveries) and Water rescues? I know that sometimes it depends on the situation, but for the most part, what are your departments practices?

Donaldson - 10/03/10 - 22:37

I used to be a member of the RIVFD. Not sure why they are wearing turnout gear either, but the water right there is very shallow (the plane is resting on the bottom, and the photographer is on dry land). Probably because they were worried about the possibility of fuel leaking and subsequent explosion. Both boats are RIVFD owned and those are firefighters from the same department on the other boat as well. Most water rescues are handled by the Coast Guard, but FD's and ocean rescue depts still respond, especially to accidents involving multiple people or ones near the shore.

Jason - 11/21/10 - 16:25

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Friday's Fire on Northwood

10/02/10 123 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

Lee Wilson took some super shots at [Friday's house fire on Northwood Drive](#). Engine 9 was first on scene with smoke showing at a one-story residence, brick, with 1,430 square-feet. Was good listening, and here are some base details recalled from the radio traffic: Engine 9 took a line inside. Engine 16 brought the water, then manned a second line. Ladder 1 on the roof to ventilate, then called down after the fire broke through. Battalion 1, then Car 10 as command. Dispatched 1:25 p.m., controlled at 2:07 p.m. Cause determined as unattended cooking. Units on scene: E9, E16, E4, E15, L1, R1, A1, B1, B3, B2, C10, C20, C40, C2, E10 for relief, EMS 31, EMS 3, EMS 11, D1, T1. [See Lee's photos](#).



Lee Wilson photo

Good job. Looks like quick work was made and held the fire in check. Good Job to the boys on the roof looks like that hole really helped out.
PGTruckie ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 10/03/10 - 00:17

That's 1/2 of L-1's crew on the roof, the other half went interior. This proves when you make truck ops a priority and staff a Ladder Company appropriately (four members minimum), numerous tasks can be performed.

We all know, I'm first to speak up when we should learn something when things aren't right, but I'll also speak up when kudos should be passed on. The members of L-1 (and all others of course) did a great job yesterday with opening the roof and trying to get in and perform a primary. Unfortunately, Collier's Mansion conditions hindered an aggressive interior attack by the Engine Crews and delayed getting water on the seat. In one pic I counted four hooks going interior!!! Hell yeah!! That's how you go to battle guys....

I'll post the pics of pre-vent and post-vent...per one member of the roof team, they DID cut a hole then came down once finished.

Pre-vent; <http://www.flickr.com/photos/leewilson/5..>

Post-vent; <http://www.flickr.com/photos/leewilson/5..>

Four hooks!!! Awesome... <http://www.flickr.com/photos/leewilson/5..>

Silver - 10/03/10 - 00:25

For those not in the know (such as myself!) Collier's Mansions— spelled Collyer's— are homes of pack-rats, named after the Collyer Brothers, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collyer_bro.. and the 130 tons of garbage removed from their home in the 1940s.

Legeros - 10/03/10 - 00:30

Sorry...oversight.

Silver - 10/03/10 - 00:31

Thank God for Google!

Legeros - 10/03/10 - 00:33

Name: (real name
preferred)

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Web Site: (optional)

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

Cleveland's Sweet Ride

10/03/10 87 W, 1 I - + 9 - 2

Beauty queens notwithstanding, this was the prettiest thing that appeared in the Fireman Day's parade today in Garner. The [Cleveland Fire Department](#) operated this 1961 Ford F-700/American LaFrance pumper, and which was the first apparatus they purchased. Their firefighter's association recently restored the old engine. It's pictured here on Main Street, several minutes after the big siren blew signaling the start of the parade. Couple detail shots are forthcoming. See the above web site for a "before" picture. Click to enlarge:



I knew they were sort of 'hanging on to it' and was wondering if they were going to restore it. Glad to see it returned to glory. Wilson's Mills recently put their 1947 Mack back into circulation. Seems like Benson still has one of their old rigs, as does Clayton and Smithfield. The only other one I know of that was around for several years, although I think it was in a junk yard of sorts, was Micro's early 60's Ford that was equipped with a front mount pump. See, even a commercial chassis fire truck from 'way back whe' has a certain amount of elegance to it...

DJ - 10/03/10 - 02:17

Wow, I was just looking at one of these at another department up here in Davie County yesterday. It is still in service. It was yellow though...

Barrett - 10/04/10 - 10:51

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

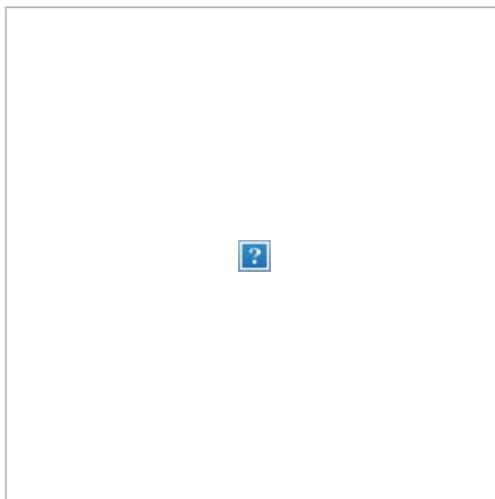
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Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - *Volunteers Needed For* « Cleveland's Sweet Rid... » [Caption This Photo](#) *NC Fallen Firefighters Foundation Booth at State Fair*

Volunteers Needed For NC Fallen Firefighters Foundation Booth at State Fair

10/03/10 74 W, 1 I - + 8 - 4

The [North Carolina State Fair](#) is fast approaching, and volunteers are again needed at the [North Carolina Fallen Firefighter's Foundation](#) booth. Come and enjoy the fellowship of meeting firefighters from both across the state and from around the world. If you can assist, please [visit this sign-up site](#). The dates of the fair are October 14 to October 24. Thanks for your support.



we would like to volunteer for state fair on first Sat and Sun and the last Sat and Sun of the state fair. our number is you need to call is 919) 630-9064

Ricky and Dara Davis ([Email](#)) - 09/12/17 - 07:45

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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Yes

No

Comment:

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

Caption This Photo

10/03/10 39 W, 1 I - + 6 - 4

Six Forks EMS 121 creeps forward on Glenwood Avenue, responding to a motor-vehicle accident at Arrow Drive with Engine 16. Congested artery with no shoulders, and we're not describing the photographer.



regardless of the traffic conditions, I thought the law was you move out of the way for emergency apparatus running lights and siren. yes, it is a congested artery and they probably need to do something to fix this traffic congestion problem around crabtree sooner rather than later.

charlie - 10/03/10 - 18:17

That is the law, yes, but it's almost never enforced, because any LEO that sees the offense is usually en route to the same thing the ambulance is. Oh, how I wish I had time to follow EMS and fire and write tickets to the people that won't yield!

rfburns - 10/03/10 - 20:34

For fun, here is the excerpt from NCGS 20-157a – "...the driver of every other vehicle shall immediately drive the same to a position as near as possible and parallel to the right-hand edge or curb, clear of any intersection of streets or highways, and shall stop and remain in such position unless otherwise directed by a law enforcement or traffic officer until law enforcement or fire department vehicle or public or private ambulance or rescue squad emergency service vehicle shall have passed."

A.C. Rich - 10/03/10 - 20:58

And in this particular pic, traffic is being funneled into a single lane due to apparatus blocking and the accident vehicles. Photo Boy crossed Glenwood and doubled back on Arrow to get close.

Then, after cones were extended to block two outer lanes, a couple drivers got creative and detoured through the gas station and through the scene. The crew on scene was not amused by the creativity of the motorists.

Legeros - 10/03/10 - 21:07

Caption "Speak up, I can't hear you on my cell with all the traffic noise, where do you want to go to eat?"

2redline - 10/03/10 - 21:11

Be honest, can you really hear sirens and horns unless the unit is right on top of you? My 2010 Accord is damn soundproof. And on those rare occasions where I am not aware of approaching emergency vehicles, they surprise the heck out of me. And I am rarely blasting music. Though

the voices in my head are another matter entirely...

Legeros - 10/03/10 - 21:22

Hear the sirens? Funny you should ask. Based upon anecdotal experience on my part, and an actual 'scientific experiment' I helped conduct, there are 'limits' upon what folks can actually hear. Of course, cars are more sound proof these days. And the stereos are louder and of better quality.

So, on ambulances I have used with the eQ2, I have found that if I use it like a regular 'Q', meaning 'letting it wail', the traffic lanes part before me. I watch my partners play with the siren like they are trying to communicate with a space ship from some far galaxy, and folks don't move. So why is that, you ask?

Something about the sound waves. The steady tone (letting it wail by holding the button down) tends to carry further. The regular wail cycle carries almost as far. When you switch to 'yelp' or, heaven forbid, that messed up 'phaser' sound, the sound waves seem to not travel as far. My own experience is when an emergency vehicle comes up behind you, if you are sitting still, you really don't seem to hear the 'fast' tones until they are about two or three car lengths away. Now, imagine that you are traveling down the road at the posted speed limit (like that happens), the distance seems to get closer.

Almost always, if an LEO comes up behind me with the siren on, if I am moving in traffic, I never hear the siren on yelp or phaser until they are less than 20 yards away. And I don't ride with the stereo playing that loud. I have seen numerous times the same thing with ambulances in traffic. Play with the siren and no one hears you. Set it on wail, or lay down on the eQ2 manual button, and traffic hears you from a distance.

DJ - 10/04/10 - 09:37

"Ooooooh! Look at the shiny, bright lights!!!"

Joffre - 10/05/10 - 15:54

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
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Comment:

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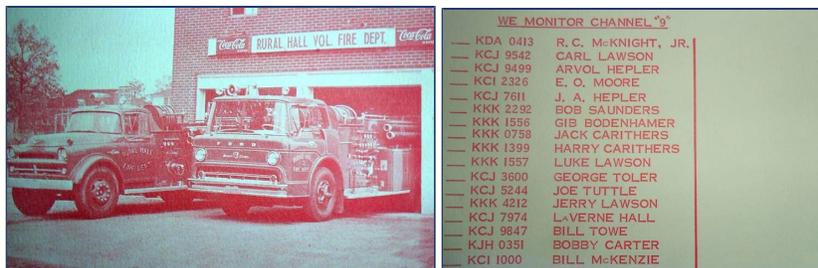
Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

Rural Hall Radio Card

10/03/10 39 W, 2 I - + 7 - 4

As found for sale on eBay, here's an interesting artifact out of Forsyth County. Called a radio card, and made for or perhaps distributed by the Rural Hall Fire Department. Click to slightly enlarge:



nice old photo of Apparatus from the rural hall fire department. visited their official website. they are in the process of restoring or have restored that plymouth fire truck that is pictured on the left. it is a 1941 plymouth truck.

charlie - 10/03/10 - 18:33

Actually, the 1941 Plymouth truck that is restored is not the one pictured; it is actually a pickup-sized truck, the first Department apparatus that was in Rural Hall, according to the Chief. It's currently housed in the small bay at the front of the station. I'll have to bring this information up to the Chief and some of the older members, they might be interested in bidding on it; could you post up the link to the eBay auction? Also, if you'd like some pictures of the '41 Plymouth, I'd be more than happy to email some. (I am currently a county Paramedic posted at Station 23.)

Joffre Schrandt - 10/05/10 - 15:51

Here are pictures of the 1941 Plymouth, <http://www.ruralhallfire.net/history1.ht..>

Here's the auction, <http://cgi.ebay.com/Vintage-Rural-Hall-F..>

Legeros - 10/05/10 - 18:09

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

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Yes
No

Comment:

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Who Fights The Most Fire?

10/03/10 45 W - + 8 - 4

Quick poll, who fights the most fire? Raleigh, Durham, Greensboro, or Winston-Salem? The context of the question is job seekers in the Central Piedmont, and who are seeking a busy or the busiest department to apply for. Thanks for input.

The answer won't tell you much, though. A department with the most fires could still be slow overall, because everyone else is running medical calls. And even at the busiest department, if they're well-staffed, your share of that action isn't going to be as much. Maybe the question should be: what is the call volume divided by the full time staffing equivalent? But that question doesn't sound like it would be fun to discuss... :)

rfburns - 10/03/10 - 20:02

That data point will or should tell me everything, at least for this question. In this case I am equating busy with working fires. So my language should perhaps be a bit more clear.

Which of the four departments have the most working fires?

Legeros - 10/03/10 - 20:23

I'd say Durham when you compare size to working fires.....

Silver - 10/03/10 - 22:24

Ah, I love this question...however, it is a bit difficult to answer. The problem is working fires aren't easily tracked...at least not through NFIRS. Some working fires are categorized under "building fire", and others under "cooking fire", "chimney fire", etc. Not too mention, all those categorized under "building fire" may not have been actual working fires.

So, in my opinion, you end up with a educated guess on the actual number of working fires. That is, unless you have a non-NFIRS Legeroseque method of tracking such an animal. As comparsion and to be taken only with a grain of salt...the City of Raleigh FD ran the following in 2009: structure fires – 420, vehicle fires – 224, vegetation fires – 213, of the total 35404 runs...which is approximately 2.4% of the total runs.

AP - 10/05/10 - 20:23

Right-o. I am thinking this is more of a "feel" opinion, although maybe folks from DFD, GFD, WSFD have some numbers they can throw.

Raleigh is a room-and-contents land, mostly. And bigger residential single- and multi-unit fires, from time to time. Not much in the way of big honkin' commercial or industrial blazes. That sound about right?

Legeros - 10/05/10 - 20:26

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

History Talk / Wake County Firefighters Association Meeting, Tuesday, November 9

10/04/10 121 W - + 6 - 4

The fall supper and meeting of the [Wake County Firefighter's Association](#) will be held on Tuesday, November 9, at the Western Wake Fire Department, [4021 District Drive](#). That's a C-shift day. [Dinner also called supper](#) will be served at 6:30 p.m.

The guest speaker is some guy described in their latest newsletter as "local author/photographer/historian/fire buff Mike Legeros." I will present an abbreviated version of my [History of North Carolina Firefighting presentation](#).

The agenda for the meeting includes election of board officers for the next year, and thus all members are encouraged to attend. Food, fellowship, history, and an election. How can you top that? See you there.

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Blocking Works

10/05/10 72 W, 1 I - + 8 - 4

Cruising around the Firehouse forums this morning finds this photo. Picture is from Stamford, CT, where an engine blocking lanes on I-95 was struck by a semi. The big rig was rolling at highway speed, which is 65 or higher in that area. The only injuries were one state trooper struck by flying debris. [Firefighters Close Calls](#) has details. Or [read the forum thread](#).



Wow! that is total loss!

charlie - 10/05/10 - 11:13

Total gain for our brothers and sisters to be able to go home and be with their family!

JDean - 10/05/10 - 11:57

Once again...for my EMS brethren...MVC 29B8 on a major road- if they don't send you a fire truck, call for it. And again, don't take no for an answer. Imagine what would have happened had this been one of aluminum clad boxes. Your safety is your paramount concern. All the blinky lights, cones, and vests in the world won't stop a fast moving vehicle from plowing into you.

And ALWAYS try and put something substantial between the back of your ambulance and oncoming traffic...

DJ - 10/05/10 - 13:53

There are departments in Wake County that REFUSE to block for safety...

DidYouKnow? - 10/07/10 - 00:26

Idiots....

Silver - 10/07/10 - 09:44

That's fine and it's their prerogative. It's also my prerogative to get on the radio and specifically request the next nearest unit. I've already done it once. Although in that case it was not the FD's decision, it was the LEO's assessment that blocking apparatus was not appropriate in 17:00 traffic on a busy thoroughfare. But still, I'll ask once, then I get on the radio.

My safety and that of my personnel comes first. Period.

DJ - 10/07/10 - 09:52

I have to agree with Silver and DJ in this. It is idiotic to disregard the safety of you and your personnel. And sadly, there are still a few LEO's who think they are 10 feet tall and bulletproof-or that they cannot for any reason slow down rush hour traffic. I for one don't want it to take a

loss of life in our area to drive the point home. Always have that safety margin – read that big red firetruck – blocking for you!!

Goose - 10/07/10 - 11:50

And for the general public that is in a rush to get home after the bell strikes 5pm, we're looking out for ourselves when you see several fire trucks and ambulances on the scene of a "minor" accident on Interstate/Highway ____ (insert number here). If it means closing another lane for us to operate safely, then so be it. For years it was always "keep the traffic flowin'". Well, I'm glad to see several agencies taking the stance on our safety, and not the convenience of others to make it home from work twenty minutes faster.

Stay safe, and watch out for each other!!

Silver - 10/07/10 - 13:48

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Private Protection

10/05/10 102 W - + 8 - 7

Then there's this story that [Dave Statter](#) found, about reactions to the private firefighters that participated in the Fourmile Canyon fire in Colorado last month. More than 1,000 firefighters and 100 engines responded, and that included 13 firefighters with five engines contracted by an insurance company. Two more trucks with four firefighters were sent by a second company. [Reports this news story](#), the action has raised some questions on ethics. At least, as expressed in a local newspaper editorial. Read the story, and links therein for more. There are a number of sides to this one. All very interesting, of course. Happy Tuesday.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Rural Hall's First Fire Truck

10/05/10 166 W, 1 I - + 13 - 4

As referenced in [this prior thread](#), here's a picture of a 1941 Plymouth pick-up truck that served as first piece of fire apparatus for the Rural Hall Fire Department in Forsyth County. They organized in 1939, and bought the truck for \$500. Plus another \$25 to paint the thing red.

It was equipped with ladders, lanterns, extinguishers, and hose. Presumably for connecting to hydrants, and using hydrant pressure to fight fires. Their first pumping engine was added to the fleet in 1948.

The same thing was done around here in 1954, when the newly formed Knightdale Fire Department placed a 1 1/2-ton town truck in service as a fire engine. They responded with a vehicle carrying hose, and hooked to the newly installed fire hydrants. Same method as the days of hand reels and hose wagons in the 19th Century!

Read [some Knightdale FD history](#). Or [read more Rural Hall FD history](#), and see more photos of that very sweet ride!



Rural Hall Fire Department photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

See You at the State Fair

10/07/10 69 W, 1 I - + 5 - 4

This year's entry for the [North Carolina State Fair Arts and Photography competition category](#) is pictured below. Sized 16 by 20-inches, with 12 x 16-inch matte. Same was photographed at [last year's fair](#). Subject's identity not known. Picture looks better in person. Cash prizes range from \$120 to \$55. See you there, and with cameras at the ready.



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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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This Weekend's Events

10/07/10 115 W - + 5 - 7

Oct 8 - Fri

- Raleigh FD - Display at Crabtree Valley Mall

Oct 9 - Sat

- Creedmoor FD - [Fireman's Day](#) - 3:00 p.m. parade, followed by meal at South Granville High School
- Fuquay-Varina FD - [Open House](#) - Station 1 - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Parkwood FD - [BBQ Cook-Off](#) - Station 1 - 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Princeton FD (Johnston) - [5K Fundraiser Run](#) - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Raleigh FD - Display at Crabtree Valley Mall

Oct 10 - Sun

- Fairview FD - Open House - Station 1 - 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Raleigh FD - [Recruitment](#) Open House - All stations - 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Clayton Fire Dept Open House, Sunday, Oct 10th Station 1 from 1p-4p

JDean - 10/08/10 - 17:53

Creedmoor parade starts at 3:30 p.m., not 3:00 p.m. as stated above.

Legeros - 10/09/10 - 13:49

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.

1937 Seagrave Pumper in Pinehurst

10/07/10 56 W, 2 I - + 8 - 2

[FireNews reports](#) that the Pinehurst Fire Department has recovered their 1937 Seagrave pumper. The engine, named Annabelle, was purchased from a private owner. Talk about a nice-looking rig! The department recently announced a restoration project, and is asking for donations. [See this flyer](#)  for more information. [Read the FireNews story.](#)



FireNews photo

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Hot Shots From Atlanta

10/07/10 43 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

The photographer is [John Spink](#). The publication is the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. The incident was a [three-alarm fire](#) this morning at a Halloween attraction. Talk about good pictures! [View his slideshow](#) from the scene.



John Spink/Atlanta Journal-Constitution photo

That'll wind up as the header photo on someone's fire blog I bet. The reflection pic is quite nice too.

Todd D - 10/09/10 - 19:55

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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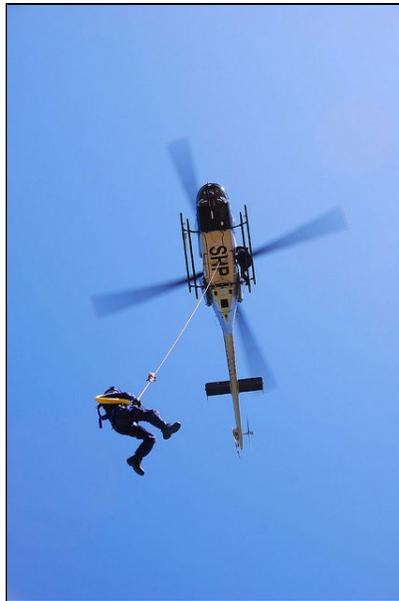
Raleigh Fire Department Completes Helo Rescue Training

10/08/10 149 W, 1 I - + 5 - 8

From [this press release](#) posted this week, the Raleigh Fire Department now has 15 members trained as Helicopter Aquatics Rescue Technicians to respond to floods and a wide range of helicopter-based rescues. Each team member has trained to execute rescues over land, water, from rooftops, trees and most other obstacles.

The initial phase of training included more than 100 hours in a variety of scenarios. Requests for assistance from the team come through the State of North Carolina Emergency Management from the local county emergency management agencies.

The training was put into practice last Friday, October 1, as team members Capt. E. Moxin and Lt. P Morgan responded to a request from Bertie County to perform reconnaissance over the flooded towns of Windsor, Hertford and Belhaven. Here are some past photos of their training from Lee ([Set #1](#), [Set #2](#), [Set #3](#)) and [Legeros](#).



Lee Wilson photo

There's something you don't see every day. Nice job Lee!

Todd D - 10/09/10 - 19:56

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Mack Pack From Dunn

10/08/10 78 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

Found for sale on eBay are four 35mm slides (remember those?) of Dunn Fire Department apparatus. Each listed separately. Original photographer not known. Left to right, top to bottom: 1940 Mack L , 1948 Mack L, 1971 Mack CF, 1976 Mack MB. Click to enlarge this montage. Search and find the listings for even larger views. Or bid and win the things! And apologies to those trying to win the things, if the prices suddenly skyrocket.



eBay photos

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

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Fireman's Day Parade

10/09/10 70 W, 1 I - + 8 - 4

That's Norlina's vintage Brockway pumper in the foreground in this (attempted) deep focus photo from this afternoon's Fireman's Day parade through downtown Creedmoor. Yours Truly was only struck a couple times by pieces of flying candy, include one which ricocheted off my Canon Digital Rebel XT camera body and struck a woman watching on the east side of Main Street. More photos later. Click to enlarge:



That's solid picture. Good job.

Todd D - 10/09/10 - 19:50

Nice angle Mike!!! BTW for the apparatus buffs, the Brockway from Norlina formerly served Bowie FD in Prince Georges County,MD.

BFD1151 - 10/09/10 - 22:36

John Franks took some good shots of the Brockway truck at the Warren County Firemen's Day last month,

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/jwmfranks/s..>

Legeros - 10/09/10 - 23:30

Would love to hear this truck pumping because it sounds so good going down the road. Reminds me of the sound of the original Big Bertha tanker that Rolesville had. I think it had a 427 with dual stacks. Loved to hear Dad and Jimmy Gay make those stacks talk.

Rob Mitchell - 10/12/10 - 14:49

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

View From Above

10/09/10 99 W, 1 I - + 5 - 7

Or at least somewhat elevated at the intersection of East Street and Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard. Motor-vehicle accident with Engine 3 and EMS 31, the latter to the right of the frame. The intersection's was also the scene of what's probably been the largest transformer fire in the city's history. Remember that August afternoon in 2001? Smoke column that could be seen from Mini City, hundreds of spectators watching and sweating, the roar of the crash truck flowing foam at the scene. This was my [best picture that day](#). Anyway, back to present day. Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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New Wheels For WC1

10/10/10 41 W, 1 I - + 7 - 7

Lee Wilson has [posted a couple photos](#) of the new investigator's vehicle for Wake County Fire Services. The unit number is WC1. Replaces an Chevy Suburban that had a pull-out equipment rack, right? Click to enlarge:



Looks like a much better set-up for these guys to use in the field. Congrats to WCFR on the improvements! Also, it kinda looks like the Cary FD Battalion Chiefs' vehicles. You know, the 4-door pick-up truck with a proper bed cover is a more utilitarian option than the (now) traditional "Fire SUV." I bet the white letter tires were Donel's idea though (LOL)!!

A.C. Rich - 10/12/10 - 11:46

I like it too; seems much more practical for them and would be for a Battalion Chief as well (hint, hint RFD).

Silver - 10/12/10 - 13:39

Plus the reduced risk of bladder cancer with the separation of the passenger compartment from the storage area.

JG - 10/12/10 - 17:23

JG, not familiar with that, please fill us (me) in....

Silver - 10/12/10 - 17:34

After taking several investigation related courses, I learned of several studies that have shown that there is a significant risk of bladder cancer in Arson Investigators. This risk is high when the investigator has an SUV type vehicle in which tools, turnouts, evidence, etc... is in the same compartment as the passenger compartment. You will find that a significant number of investigators in this country are now switching to a truck type apparatus to decrease these chances. With the truck type apparatus, it places the investigator in a different compartment than the soiled equipment that contains toxins, carcinogens, etc...

JG - 10/12/10 - 20:55

This is also the reason that many fire investigators now utilize half-face respirators during their investigations or at least should. The same should hold true for those performing overhaul as well...if not already wearing an SCBA. Go the extra step to take precautions to go home safe every night to your families. Wear your PPE!

KP - 10/12/10 - 21:01

Venting The Roof in Charlotte

10/10/10 95 W - + 8 - 5

As found by the Fire Critic, here's a two-minute video of roof operations and other aspects of a residential structure fire in Charlotte. Ah, the sweet sound of a chainsaw. The video was produced by the Charlotte Fire Department Office of Public Affairs. See their video channel on YouTube. Or read about their award in January, named Social Medial Responder of 2009. They've got it going on. But back to the video. There are also some shots of one of their new Spartan/SVI rescues. Those things are massive!

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.

Garner Station 4

10/10/10 10 W, 1 I - + 6 - 5

Getting close to completion on Spaceway Court...



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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

[/ Textile](#)

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Caption This Photo

10/10/10 49 W, 1 I - + 9 - 6

Closing Fire Prevention Week with an open house at Fairview Fire Department. Observe that the camera captured the water just starting to spray from the nozzle. Great day for visit fire stations, great week all around for fire education. Click once or twice to enlarge:



Good Picture. Thanks for coming out. Be good

Couch - 10/10/10 - 18:43

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Registrants Needed For Free Firefighter Survival Seminar in Lumberton, Nov. 6

10/12/10 321 W - + 6 - 4

Robeson Community College in Lumberton needs 150 registrants for the following free event, in order to finalize the thing. They currently have 100 registered, as of yesterday (Monday). Please call Tammy at (910) 738-7128 to preregister. Here are the event details:

FIREFIGHTERS AND FIRE OFFICERS SURVIVAL PROGRAM: Not Everyone Goes Home!

November 6, 2010

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Emergency Services Training Center, Robeson Community College
5825 NC Highway 72 East, Lumberton

Instructor - Chief Billy Goldfeder, EFO, Deputy Chief of the Loveland-Symmes FD, Associate/Contributing Editor for FIRE ENGINEERING, FIRE RESCUE, FIREHOUSE, FIREHOUSE.COM, monthly columnist: Firehouse Magazines' "CLOSE CALLS" and co-host of www.FirefighterCloseCalls.com

Chief Goldfeder will present to the attendees, through video, audio and "WAKE UP!" lecture, an in-depth review of specific and very recent and timely fireground events with a strong focus on DWELLING FIRES that ended with tragic results. The program focuses specifically on the LESSON LEARNED so that these incidents (and those involved) don't ever become forgotten. This very personal, high-energy, direct and frank program (updated regularly to assure timeliness) is professionally and respectfully presented, providing the attendees an excellent opportunity to apply the LESSONS LEARNED to their own departments...and themselves, when returning home...potentially avoiding "history tragically repeating itself."

The goal of this program is to have the Firefighters and Officers leave more knowledgeable, educated and informed...but, most importantly, THINKING HARD about their role and their department's responsibility in FIRE and RESCUE operations: to themselves and their families. These "LESSONS LEARNED" and related CASE STUDIES will help insure that similar problems are not repeated again at YOUR DEPARTMENT.

EVERYONE GOES HOME? Some firefighters do and some don't...this seminar will help you understand WHY...and why it is so important to think about Who is in YOUR wallet?

PLEASE CALL (910) 738-7128 TO PRE-REGISTER

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Beacon and Raleigh Rescue

10/12/10 80 W, 1 I - + 8 - 2

Reader Travis Loy shares this vintage photo of a Beacon ambulance and a Raleigh Fire Department rescue squad. Dates to the seventies, and with a mystery location. Old-timers, where was Fass Brothers (?) Fish House located? Wonder how many other color prints and slides survive from that era, and can be found around time. As the fire department's 100th anniversary approaches in 2012, we'll probably have a call for photos or two or three. Click to enlarge:



Google brings up the possibility of Fass Brothers Fish House being located in Mission Valley.

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 10/12/10 - 20:40

This is one of the best retro photos I have seen – Love it!! I wish we could have a “retro day” where we suddenly went back for just one day and had the opportunity to ride those trucks! Thanks for sharing!!

Jason Thompson ([Email](#)) - 10/12/10 - 20:54

I cannot remember the name of the shopping center, But it was located near WRAL Tv

rnln ([Email](#)) - 10/12/10 - 21:52

Very nice photo! My opinion... The intersection appears to be Western Blvd. and Avent Ferry Rd. The photo appears to be taken from Avent Ferry Rd. in the “outbound” lane (note the slope of the roadway); with the Mission Valley Inn on the immediate left and the Mission Valley Shopping Center is on the right.

A.C. Rich - 10/12/10 - 23:12

AC is correct. And Fass Bros was at Mission Valley. Good stuff! The Oldsmobile is one of two that Beacon had of this model. They were number #12 and #14. They were 1974 or so Oldsmobiles with Cotner-Bevington conversions, complete with 54” of headroom. The four mini-beacons on the corners of the roof were Grimes lights, of the same variety on aircraft in the day.

The way to tell the two cars apart, aside from #12 and #14 on them. was that one of them had little flashers mounted near the windshield. Can't remember which one that was though.

The rescue is the newer of the two that RFD had and about that time it was at station one, hence it has to be RESCUE 1. Also note the RPD

Ford Galaxie behind R-1.

DJ - 10/12/10 - 23:22

Wonder what happened to that Beacon? Now that would be a beauty to restore!

CJ - 10/13/10 - 06:43

I believe it was a lease car, so when Beacon closed it went back to wherever. I know that it did was not there with Beacon's successor- Medical Transport Service.

DJ - 10/13/10 - 09:24

When Beacon closed they lost both units and two oldsmobile autos as well as all radio equipment. All of which was leased by G-E Finance FL-19-24-10.

Fred Loy ([Email](#)) - 10/24/10 - 19:41

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Upcoming Events in Clayton

10/13/10 229 W - + 8 - 5

The Clayton Fire Department has a couple events coming up. This Friday, October 15, the Clayton Fire Fighters Association (CFFA) Annual BBQ Chicken Fundraiser will be held at Fire Station #1 located at [325 W. Horne Street](#). Serving starts at 11:00 a.m. and continue until 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$7.00 per plate which includes a half chicken, green beans, boiled taters, and rolls. The Ladies Auxiliary is providing desserts.

CFFA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, that donates to such charities as the North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Foundation, the Jaycee Burn Center, and Red Cross. They also donate to local churches and individuals in need. The CFFA is working to restoring their old Engine 1, a 1947 Ford pumper. [Read about the fundraiser and the old truck](#).

On Saturday, October 23, the Clayton Fire Department is participating at a St. Baldrick's Foundation event at The Flipside, located at [408 E. 2nd Street](#). The shaving starts at 3:00 p.m. They hope to match or exceed last year's totals, which was organized by the Baker Family after they spent a summer taking their son Bo to UNC Children's Hospital as he underwent radiation and chemotherapy treatments.

You can donate, or register as a shavee at www.stbaldricks.org/events/flipside. Even Chief Barbee is going under the blade as [team captain](#). Funds raised by the St. Baldrick's Foundation are used to fund childhood cancer research.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

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No

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Mystery Roadway

10/13/10 26 W, 1 I - + 8 - 1

Where are we looking, that we're seeing that police car creeping forward in the far left lane?



Outbound Glenwood Ave. at Lead Mine????

Silver - 10/13/10 - 22:50

Well it isn't Glenwood and Lead Mine b/c I just went through that area...

Silver - 10/14/10 - 17:13

Silver, don't second guess yourself. I believe you were correct the first time. <http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF..>

RescueRanger - 10/14/10 - 20:09

Came thru there today and was sure to look at the intersection. Where the road goes over Crabtree Creek, the Jersey barrier is raised up. Could this be the intersection as you head outbound Glenwood right before the Lead Mine and Glenwood intersection?

Silver - 10/14/10 - 20:57

Bingo!

Legeros - 10/14/10 - 21:00

Niiiiicccccceeee....

Silver - 10/14/10 - 21:21

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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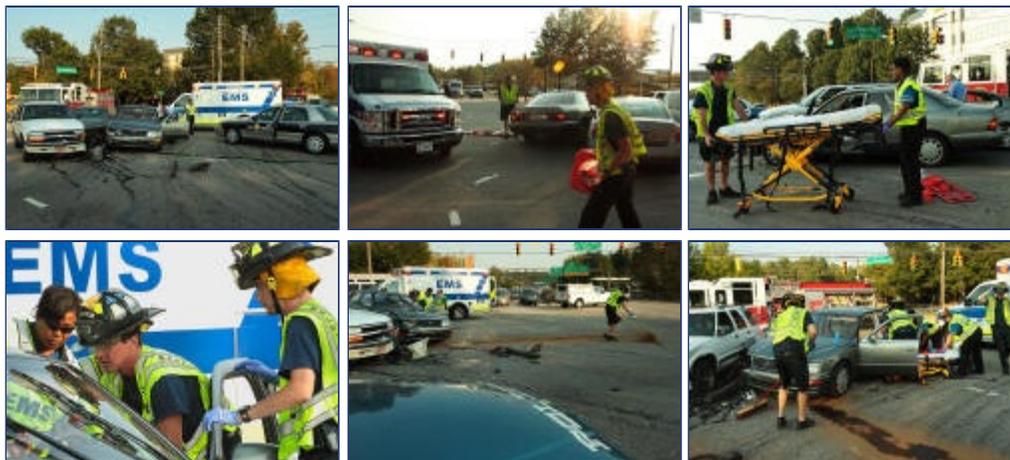
Yes

No

The Accident Scene - Then and Now

10/14/10 62 W, 6 I - + 10 - 5

By way of comparison to the vintage pictures posted previously, here's a modern accident scene. Engine 9 and EMS 3 yesterday at the intersection of Glenwood Avenue and Lead Mine Road. Some apples to oranges to the vintage pictures, notably the absence of spectators. How many other things are different, then versus now? Click to enlarge:



Differences? First of all, there is better scene control. Not only of the spectators, but we usually try to form safety zone. Plenty of personnel (resources). Safety vests. Protective clothing (at least helmets). Look at the photos from the Holly Springs crash. Look at all of the personnel (fire and EMS) in protective gear. Back in the day, even the fire folks rarely put on gear at an MVC. Spill control? I can't count how many times I slipped on something, because fluids were not washed up until after the patients were tended to. And although it is not a popular decision at times, fire and EMS are not afraid to shut down a roadway for our safety. Even a busy one. Back in the day we would not have thought about doing that. Of course, we did not seem to care about our safety back then, either.

DJ - 10/14/10 - 22:20

These pictures make we wonder about the city's policy on wearing shorts. When is a scene "hazardous enough" that shorts aren't appropriate? The old joke used to be "if someone gets hurt, be sure to put their gear on them so that they're covered".

Shorty - 10/15/10 - 08:25

When extrication is being performed.

KP - 10/15/10 - 14:58

I'll second that shorty... Without pissing anyone off I will say that I'm shocked at the apathy for safety at accident scenes demonstrated recently by the city. There, I'm sure that worked- but really think about it, wearing shorts is a privilege and certainly nothing you are entitled to. So, a sure fire way to have that privilege revoked is by taking the chances demonstrated above (not wearing gear) and something happening (cut leg, tracking fluids back to the house on your shoes). So let's be honest, the city set the trend in the county for wearing shorts...I personally enjoy that privilege and would hate to see it disappear because of an incident, or the mere perception that firefighters are enjoying staying cool so much that they feel there is no need for bunker pants (minimum). I hope this is not another trend that will be set, Raleigh FF's please remember that a lot of the volunteers in the county and other county firefighters look up to you and you should take it as a compliment when they want to do the things they see you city boys doing. Please think about what kind of example you are setting. And don't give me that crap about there not being any hazards or safety issues on this accident scene, for Petes sake your putting absorbent down on an unknown liquid- and maybe even walking through it...with your SHOES that you also wear home. You really want to track blood, gas, brake fluid, coolant, or whatever that stuff is all over the floor and carpet your children play on?

I'm sure I pissed a few of you off but that's good, means I got your attention. Remember all of us are leaders to some extent; captains to your crew, firefighters to your new recruits, and one department to another. Your actions will always speak louder than your words, and I'm sure you're reading this saying "its just shorts" but is that not where it starts? Next month it may be foregoing the tools on a fire alarm, the airpack on a car fire (saw that recently too!). This isn't the first time ive seen this with RFD and will probably not be the last, hate me now but thank me later for what might/ might not happen on the next run when you WEAR YOUR GEAR. If you wanna be pissed then be pissed at yourself, and remember change starts with YOU....no true brother /firefighter is going to criticize you for being over- dressed. Feel free to email me and cuss me out but think about what your pissed about first.

J.Boggs ([Email](#)) - 10/15/10 - 22:37

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Stations, Companies, and Other Bits of Raleigh History

10/14/10 1098 W - + 6 - 7

For your Friday enjoyment, here are some Raleigh Fire Department history bits related to stations, staffing, companies, and even contract fire prevention. Sources are Mike's [history pages](#), and the gray matter behind them.

Contents

- Delayed Station Construction
- Delayed Building Construction
- Planned Station Openings
- Proposed Station Closures
- Actual Station Closures
- Staffing Cuts
- Company Closures
- Second Engine at Station 1
- Contract Fire Protection

Delayed Station Construction

The longest-delayed station construction project is likely the replacement of old Station 1 on West Morgan Street, which took 12 years to complete. The station was declared unsafe for occupancy in 1940, and finally vacated and demolished in 1941. (Though the tower was removed in 1938, itself declared unsafe for a number of years.) The city purchased a lot on South Dawson Street for the replacement station, while the fire companies from Station 1 relocated to Station 2 at Memorial Auditorium and old Station 2 (now Station 1) on South Salisbury Street. Then the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, and war time restrictions commenced, including building construction. A building for the fire alarm system was built within a year on the Dawson Street site, but the replacement fire station took another decade to complete.

Also during that time frame, Station 6 opened in a rented building on Fairview Road on January 2, 1943. The city had looked at other properties in the Budleigh area, including the grounds of the nearby Country Club Apartments. FHA regulations, however, prevented the construction of a garage. Plans for a dedicated Station 6 were soon underway. If memory serves from my reading of the city minutes downtown, that project was delayed a year to two. Believe they had to re-bid the project, as no bids were received the first and maybe even second time. A dedicated Station 6 finally opened in 1949.

Delayed Building Construction

Another long-delayed facilities project was the recommendation in a 1958 fire protection report to construct a classroom building at the training tower on South Wilmington Street. The Keeter Training Center opened 24 years later in 1982. The same report recommended the relocation of Station 2, and converting the old station at Memorial Auditorium to a maintenance facility. When Station 2 was moved to Pecan Road in 1969, a dedicated shop building was also opened at the new location.

Planned Station Openings

Nearly all of the fire station locations identified in planning projects were constructed, though at times taking a decade or more to complete. One exception was the location of Old Stage Road and Highway 401, near Garner. A fire protection report of 1971 cited same as a future fire station location for "1975-beyond." The fire station locations were based on planned annexations. The city limits never expanded farther south than Highway 70 and Highway 401. However, business owners on Highway 401 south of Raleigh could contract with the city for fire protection in the 1970s. Specific details on the years such services were offered is to be determined.

Proposed Station Closures

In 1993, City Council considered a plan to consolidate two sets of two fire stations. The process would trim staffing by 24 positions, and save up to \$800,000 in salary costs. The plan involved closing Station 1 and Station 3, and replacing with a single station near Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Haywood Street. Station 5 and Station 6 would also be closed, and replaced with a new station near Wade Avenue and St. Mary's Street. Citizens were among the parties that protested, and the plan was eventually discarded.

Actual Station Closures

The only permanent station closure in the city's history was the relocation of Station 4 from Old Wake Forest Road to Northway Court on June 24, 1993. The company was moved to a new response area on the northern edge of the city. Their former response area was absorbed by Engine 6, Engine 9, and Engine 11. The reason for the relocation was cited as overlapping response areas.

Staffing Cuts

During the difficult economic times of the mid-Seventies, City Manager Lawrence P. Zachary announced 60 job cuts on October 5, 1976. They included nine Captain positions in the fire department. The positions were eliminated from the three service ladder truck companies, and were never restored in subsequent budget years. The service companies were led by Lieutenants until the last service company was converted to an aerial ladder company in 1989. That was Truck 15, converted from a 1971 Chevrolet service truck to a 1977 Mack aerial platform.

Company Closures

The closure of fire companies in the city's history has been exceedingly rare. Truck 12, a service ladder company, was permanently removed from service on September 21, 1988. Log books recall that the company was often or perpetually out of service for many months prior, its personnel filling in at other stations. Oral histories recall that the Truck 12 positions were ultimately used to staff Engine 20, which was placed in service on January 20, 1989. It operated a 1961 American LaFrance pumper upon the station's opening.

Second Engine at Station 1

A single engine company has been staffed at Station 1 since 1912. Upon completion of the new Station 1 on South Dawson Street, a second engine company was placed in service, Engine 9. That engine would be later named Engine 10, Engine 15, and Engine 13. The specific reason for the second company is to be determined. The specifics of the second company, such as exact date of in-service and other details, are also to be determined. Was Engine 9 a continuously serving engine company, from 1953 forward? Were there gaps in service during that decade? To be determined.

On April 1, 1960, the second engine at Station 1 was transferred to Station 8, which opened that date in a rented house on Kent Road, now named Method Road. Six men were assigned to each shift. They operated a 1958 American LaFrance pumper, and a 1960 GMC/Alexander tanker. There were two tankers placed in service that year, the second at Station 2.

The second engine at Station 1 was returned service as Engine 10 on April 21, 1960. It was removed from service again in February 1965, and remained out of service until March 1969. Looking at my note, it appears the personnel were shifted to Truck 6. That service ladder company had been out of service for an unspecified period of time. Truck 6 operated until 1979, upon which the company was moved to Station 16.

Contract Fire Protection

When was the first year that the city contracted fire protection services, for areas within the city not yet covered by a city fire station? To be determined. And who were the first contracted fire departments, anyway? Six Forks? New Hope?

And did you know that the city offered contracted fire protection services to business owners outside the city at one time? Specifically on Highway 401 south of Raleigh, at least during the 1970s. That was probably the same period of time that city growth was predicted in that direction.

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Still More Beacon

10/15/10 49 W, 6 I - + 8 - 3

This is what you wanted, this is what you get. Couple closer views of responders, plus the camera gets in close with the spectators. Love some of the fashions. Thanks again Travis. Click to enlarge:



In the 6th pic, I love that the bystander is about to light one up with a fluid (ukn) spill riight beside him.

J.Boggs - 10/15/10 - 22:07

#1- Beacon car #6

#2- Beacon car #7

#6- People used ot do that all of the time. Heck, it won't unusual to see EMS, FD, and LEOs smoking on the scene.

"Love some of the fashion:? From the guy who actually pays money for all of those Hawaiian shirts!

DJ - 10/15/10 - 22:21

Not a slave to fashion...

Legeros - 10/15/10 - 22:50

The two Beacon guys in pic #4- far left is Robert 'Foots' Williams. Facing the camera is Jack (?) Poplin.

DJ - 10/16/10 - 08:00

Pic #3- RFD James "Poodle" Williams (walking towards camera). Pic #4- James Williams and Ronald Bunch (kneeling). Both are retired RFD Captains and used to ride Rescue together (well before my time though...). Historical pics are so nice to view Mike. Thanks!

A.C. Rich - 10/17/10 - 11:45

Hey gang, where is this? Can anyone identify the crash location? And BTW Travis, we need more of these historical pictures.

Lane Hobbs ([Email](#)) - 10/28/10 - 21:00

Photo 1 & 2 look like the service location on Hillsborough St. (where Credit Union is now).

This was next to the Boylan Apartments – my apartment looked out over the back parking lot that opened on to Morgan Street (one way into town at that time). They usually had 2-3 of the Suburban and 1-2 of the Pontiac units there. The crews were generally good about not activating the sirens (especially the Q,s) until they were out on Boylan Ave or Hillsborough St.

Steve ([Email](#)) - 09/26/15 - 16:14

Mystery History

10/15/10 25 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

Apparatus inside building. Make and model, anyone? Does that reveal the location? Or does the location reveal the apparatus? Click to enlarge:



'57 FWD. Shop behind Sta.2?

RescueRanger - 10/15/10 - 20:51

I'll definitely second that it's the old garage....that little office in the corner is the tell.

Silver - 10/15/10 - 21:46

It is the 1957 FWD. And the Mars light has been taken off of the top of the windshield.

DJ - 10/16/10 - 11:54

The old shop, or underneath Station 8? Believe it's the latter. Enlarging the photo shows what appears to be the wooden ground ladders of old Truck 1 in the upper-left of the frame. Same was stored behind Station 8 and appears in photographs apparently taken at the same time of this one.

Legeros - 10/17/10 - 12:12

It is underneath Station #8 (wall contours, door size). Battalion 3 parks there now.

A.C. Rich - 10/17/10 - 21:13

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

This Weekend's Events

10/15/10 62 W - + 7 - 4

Oct 15 - Fri

- Clayton FD - BBQ Chicken Fundraiser - Station 1 - 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Brogden FD (Johnston) - BBQ & Bake Sale - 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. **Today!**

~~Oct 16 - Sat~~

- ~~• Brogden FD (Johnston) - BBQ & Bake Sale - 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.~~

All weekend

- North Carolina State Fair!

Others?

I have waited all year for a Turkey Leg from the Fair!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Turkey Leg - 10/15/10 - 09:20

Brogen is today (Friday)

as - 10/15/10 - 14:58

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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment:

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Cameras in Apparatus in Florida

10/16/10 96 W - + 6 - 5

Here's an interesting story found by firehouse.com, [from WFTV.com](#). Orange County, Florida. Cameras in apparatus, used to monitor driving practices. Installed in 120 pieces of rolling stock. Personnel have been disciplined, and thus have questioned the legality of the cameras. (They are indeed legal.) The accompanying video story concludes with some dollars cited. The system cost about \$1 million. Before the system, the county paid about \$700,00 a year on property damage lawsuits. This year, they've paid \$100,000. Wonder what their accident rates looked like? [Read or watch the story](#). Discuss as desired.

This is the only way were gonna learn.

Truckie - 10/16/10 - 16:56

Or the company officer could grow a set and enforce the procedures of the department

Mike - 10/16/10 - 17:37

Maybe some local firetrucks would still be upright if this was installed.

ladder - 10/16/10 - 21:37

A responsible driver would not be afraid of this device. Holds the driver and CO accountable, and provides one helluva training aid. Got my vote

J.Boggs - 10/17/10 - 01:44

I disagree with SOP's, SOG's, DOI's... whatever you want to call them... that put a certain "miles per hour" limit on emergency responses. Some roads you can barely go the speed limit without it being too dangerous and others you can do double the speed limit and still be okay. Other than that, I like the idea.

RPD - 10/17/10 - 03:23

Well lets ask our Wake EMS brothers and sisters. Skip or Olson has Wake EMS seen a reduction in accidents or speeding with the instillation of AVL which also tracks an EMS units speed?

Again I believe it comes down to the CO enforcing what he feels is a safe response.

Mike - 10/17/10 - 09:46

Hearty discussion on this on the Firehouse forums as well, <http://www.firehouse.com/forums/showthre..>

Legeros - 10/17/10 - 22:11

I am a fan of NFPA 1901 mandating a speedometer on the officer's side of the rigs. Would cut down on the guesswork of what the vehicle's speed is. Hard to hold a company officer responsible for a driver doing "excessive" speed if that person is talking on the radio, looking at pre-plans, looking on the MDC, watching for traffic, etc. BUT if there was a speedometer on their side then they would know what the speed of the vehicle is at all times. If you are going to hold me accountable, as a CO, then at least let me be informed so I can stop it before it happens.

I think another key factor in all of this is TRAINING. I don't know about all agencies but there are many in our county that will let you behind the wheel of a rig with NO emergency response training at all. Others require an "in house" form of training, which could be learning how to drive from those that might not exactly know themselves. And don't get me started on POV responses (a large reason you see young volunteers dying in accidents going to calls POV when they've only been driving a vehicle for a few years as it is). If you are an administrator of an agency I would think that response safety should be at the top of your "hot button" topic list, and you would be doing everything possible to ensure the safety of your crews and the citizens you are tasked with protecting.

CFP 7021 - 10/18/10 - 11:01

I like the idea of speedometers on the Officer's side of the dog box. I know they have them in all Chicago rigs

Mike - 10/18/10 - 14:25

This new technology(black boxes, cameras, AVL, second speedometer,etc.) is OK; lets institute some old technology, "common sense". Everyone; driver, CO and passengers should know(feel)when a vehicle is being driven unsafe. A large fire truck doesn't have to be driven over the posted speed limit to be driven unsafe. Speed plays a large role in accidents but is not always the culprit. Everyone in the vehicle has a right and duty to say something.

T. Saunders - 10/18/10 - 19:37

Name: (real name preferred)

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High-Rise Drill Downtown, October 23

10/16/10 112 W - + 6 - 7

The Raleigh Fire Department and Raleigh Police Department are among the agencies that will participate in a high-rise building training drill that will close some street intersections in Downtown Raleigh on Saturday, Oct. 23. The training exercise is scheduled to be held from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Oct. 23 at the State of North Carolina's Archdale Building, located at 512 N. Salisbury Street. There will be a large number of emergency equipment at the site. Also, to create a realistic training environment, artificial smoke will be pumped into the upper floors of the Archdale Building. Citizens should not be alarmed when they see the smoke. [Read entire press release.](#)

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

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Yes
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Remains of the Day

10/16/10 38 W, 3 I - + 8 - 5

As found on the ground at the North Carolina State Fair. Last one looks like the aftermath of an FCA, funnel-cake accident. No injuries suspected, though cursing was likely involved. Click to enlarge.



Name: (real name preferred)
E-mail: (optional)
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No

Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - *Wake & District Public* « **Remains of the Day** » **Old Apparatus at Stat...**
Safety Pipes and Drums Concert, Saturday, January 8

Wake & District Public Safety Pipes and Drums Concert, Saturday, January 8

10/17/10 165 W, 1 I - + 8 - 7

Mark your calendars for the evening of Saturday, January 8, 2011, when [Wake & District Public Safety Pipes and Drums](#) celebrate their five-year anniversary with a concert at Fletcher Auditorium at the [Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts](#). Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the concert starts at 7:30 p.m.

The concert will feature Pipe Major John Cairns of the Peel Regional Police Pipe Band, the Bagpipes and Drums of the Emerald Society - Chicago Police Department, the North Carolina State University Pipes and Drums, the Triad Highlanders, and the Inis Cairde School of Irish Dance.

The host hotel for the weekend is the Downtown Raleigh Sheraton and a limited number of rooms are available at a special rate. An after-event party follows the concert at [Tir na Nog Irish Pub](#) in Raleigh. Concert tickets are \$10.00 each and can be purchased from band members or via the PayPal at [www.ForOurFallen.org](#). See you there!



Thanks for posting this information Mike – one of the bands joining us — the Chicago Police Emerald Society is the band from the movie BACKDRAFT!

Joe Brady ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 10/17/10 - 10:20

And for the younger age group they also played the funeral scene in the latest bat man movie dark night!

Jason Lane - 10/18/10 - 23:16

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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Old Apparatus at Station 8

10/17/10 296 W, 4 I - + 8 - 3

Expanding on this [mystery history photo](#), let's turn back the clock at Station 8 on Western Boulevard. That's the one with the full basement, built in 1963 and which replaced a rented house on Method Road. Before the Division Chief's quarters were built, before the Battalion Chief's quarters were built, and before Services had an office and warehouse there, the lower-level was used for apparatus storage. Witness these beauties that were once located there.

Left to right, top to bottom. First photo shows the [1950 FWD pumper](#). City seal on the door. Second photo shows the [1936 American LaFrance 400 Series pumper](#). That baby had a 12-cylinder engine! Third photo shows the [1939/1916 American LaFrance tiller](#), and the [1922 American LaFrance service truck](#). The latter was cannibalized in 1963 and the ladder used to build the [1963 Ford service truck](#). Fourth photo is the [1957 FWD pumper](#).

So what happened them? The 1922 ALF: Unknown. The 1936 ALF: Sold to private owner, who stored outside. Might have been local owner, maybe Durham? Believed last seen as fallen apart. 1939/1919 ALF: Sold to private owner, stored outside in Apex for a couple decades. Sold recently to another owner in Harnett County, and who is or will be storing indoors. Thing's rusted pretty well. The 1957 ALF? Later and still owned by Knightdale Tractor Company, though it served a stint as the first engine for Hopkins Fire Department.

Next question, when were these photos taken? The physical prints are not dated. The pictures look old as get-out. The service truck and three engines were sold in December 1976, so they're at least that old. The old tiller is remembered as still being behind Station 8 as late as 1984, if my memory of other people's memories are correct. What do readers recall of these old-time trucks? Click to enlarge:



Raleigh Emergency Rescue Squad

10/17/10 85 W, 11 I - + 11 - 4

While we're riding the rescue train, here are some good oldies showing the 1966 Chevy and 1974 and 1975 Chevy/Murphy rescue trucks in their day. Plus one accident photo for good measure. Sources vary for these photos. Dates range from the early 1970s to the early 1990s. Most or all have been seen before. Made 'em a little larger than usual as well, so details can be enjoyed. (The Station 5 photo is even a little larger.) Click **once or twice** to enlarge:



Unbelievable to me that we are still running two members on a rescue company, goes all the way back to these olden' days.

Silver - 10/17/10 - 20:09

Mike, have you considered recreating the old photo above taken at St 5? Would be interesting to compare and contrast the two, similar to the one done on Fayetteville St with St 1 apparatus. Although I'm sure it would require quite an undertaking, not too mention lots of coordination.

HJ - 10/18/10 - 06:25

@Silver: We are actually fortunate to even have rescue companies as they do not benefit the city as far as ISO points and are considered by the city council as a revenue burden. The chiefs over the years actually fought to keep them and were totally shocked when their request for a third got approved.

RescueRanger - 10/18/10 - 20:22

#2, 3, and 4 look to be shots from part of a PSA by WRAL for the new call boxes when they first went into service. Or it may have been for the 'new' unified emergency number, 829-1911.

DJ - 10/18/10 - 22:07

I'm with you RR, but I hope that when apparatus replacement comes around in the future, they consider spec'ing the new rescue apparatus to include a ground ladder compliment and the other required equipment to at least get credit as a "service truck". Still call them a "rescue", just gotta play the political game and show some benefit to the city. Maybe then, we can get a full crew for at least two of them.

Silver - 10/19/10 - 10:05

Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter, Fall Edition

10/18/10 103 W, 2 I - + 7 - 4

The fall edition of the *Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter* has been posted to the web site raleighfirenews.org. This issue's contents include: Fire Marshals Start on Shift; Capt. Fanning, Firefighter of the Year; Asst. Chief Phil Woodlief Retires; Asst. Chief Larry Stanford Retires; Recruitment Update; Promotions and Appointments; Retirements; Community Service For Safety; New Tiller Delivered; Scenes from the Fire Expo; Photo Gallery; Facilities Updates; Historical Society News. [See the web site](#) for back issues. The *Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter* is a quarterly publication for personnel, retirees, and citizens. [Read the issue](#) , or click to access:



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 No

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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'?

Caption This Photo

10/18/10 111 W, 1 I - + 9 - 3

Scenes from the Great Raleigh Earthquake? Extreme parking for city vehicles? Nope, just the usual USAR grounds at the Keeter Training Center. That's where a Structural Collapse Rescue Technician course is concluding. Two more days, including final practical exercise. By the numbers, it's 65 students, 25 instructors, 11 days, 100+ course hours, 12-14 fire departments representing six state USAR task forces. Sponsored by North Carolina Emergency Management and hosted and taught by Task Force 8, which is comprised of members from Cary, Chapel Hill, Durham, and Raleigh fire departments. Photos from Legeros and Lee forthcoming. It's not every day our cameras get exposed to concrete dust!



This is what happens when you let women drive...

I kid, I kid!!!! :-)

Signed,

A male that has been involved in 2 DMV 349s over the years...

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 10/18/10 - 23:46

Junior – "Daddy, the Bandit is getting away!"

Sheriff – "Junior"

Junior – "Yes Daddy?"

Sheriff – "Remind me when I get home, I'm gonna punch your Momma right square in the mouth."

Mikey H. - 10/19/10 - 15:46

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Charlotte Firefighters Injured During Search For Explosives

10/19/10 168 W, 1 I - + 7 - 3

Here's an usual incident yesterday as [reported by the Charlotte Observer](#). It started a Turning Point Academy on West Sugar Creek Road, where an exploding pen (!) sent a 15-year-old student to the hospital. Another student was arrested at the scene, and his brother was arrested hours later when they searched the teenager's house on Mt. Holly Road. They started that search that afternoon.

Bomb squad members-- or bomb squads, plural?-- searched the home for additional explosives. Charlotte fire and EMS personnel stood by, and a couple dozen homes and one business were evacuated during the search. Three firefighters suffered minor injuries from an explosion that occurred as they performed a field test on one of the substances found at the scene.

Operations resume this morning. [Read the story](#), which also includes quite a few reader comments. Looks like their *Observer* has our *News & Observer* beat for reader participation. Click to enlarge:



Todd Sumblin/Charlotte Observer photo

Updated with a better photo. Interesting police vehicles there! Click to enlarge, or see this slideshow:

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2010/10..>

Legeros - 10/19/10 - 20:18

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Eye in the Sky on Buck Jones Road

10/19/10 55 W, 1 I - + 6 - 6

WTVD was quick over the scene at this afternoon's structure fire at 700 Buck Jones Road. Engine 8 arrived with flames showing from the breezeway of a two-story apartment building. [See their slideshow](#) of widescreen photos. Damaged to contained to breezeway. No extension found inside structure.



WTVD photo

This has been a good week for listening to fires!

Ear - 10/19/10 - 21:48

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'?

Former Fire Stations of Raleigh

10/19/10 109 W, 1 I - + 6 - 4

This [page of information](#) about former fire stations of Raleigh has been updated. Larger graphics, more graphics, additional information, and better linking. It's part of this frames-based site of [Raleigh fire station information](#). Edits are welcome for any errors or omissions spotted.

Information about former Raleigh stations is also found in [this web article](#), which originally appeared on FireNews. There's even a discrepancy or two, as subsequent research clarified the odd date or two. Need to align all pages with the corrected data. Memo to self: do that.



I would love to see what changes have been made inside the previous #4 on Wake Forest rd. Mike, have you ever contacted the current owner of the station?

RescueRanger - 10/19/10 - 22:35

I paid a visit to the facility about three years ago, and met the owners. I toured the day room, and apparatus bay. The day room had been transformed into cubicle-based office space, as I recall. The apparatus bay was pretty much the same as prior. Maybe some shelves or cabinets, but largely still vehicle-sized.

Legeros - 10/19/10 - 22:37

Still not a prized property in the county's eyes, it seems...

Land Value Assessed: \$352,840

Bldg. Value Assessed: \$112,618

Legeros - 10/19/10 - 22:39

Shoulda' never sold it...

Silver - 10/19/10 - 22:47

Silver is correct. From my understanding a replacement station which should be either 31 or 32 is slated to be built in that area somewhere on Atlantic between Whitaker Mill and Six Forks.

RescueRanger - 10/20/10 - 10:54

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Emergency Services Employment / Wake Tech Public Safety Campus

10/20/10 143 W - + 7 - 7

This morning's *News & Observer* article [includes this story](#) about current employment opportunities in local emergency services. Agencies mentioned include Durham police, Garner police, Raleigh fire, Wake County sheriff, and North Carolina Highway Patrol. The article also talks about Wake Technical Community College's Public Safety Education Campus on Chapanoke Road, which was unveiled yesterday. [Read their blog posting](#) about the facility, which was previously the Public Safety Training Center.

They just completed a \$5 million overhaul of the place, and expanded the 18,500 square-feet to over 65,000 square-feet. The campus houses Wake Tech's Basic Law Enforcement program, as well as degree programs in Criminal Justice, Latent Evidence, and Fire Protection Technology. It's also the location for in-service training of fire, rescue, EMS, law enforcement, corrections, and other public safety personnel.

[News & Observer story](#)

[Wake Tech blog posting](#)

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

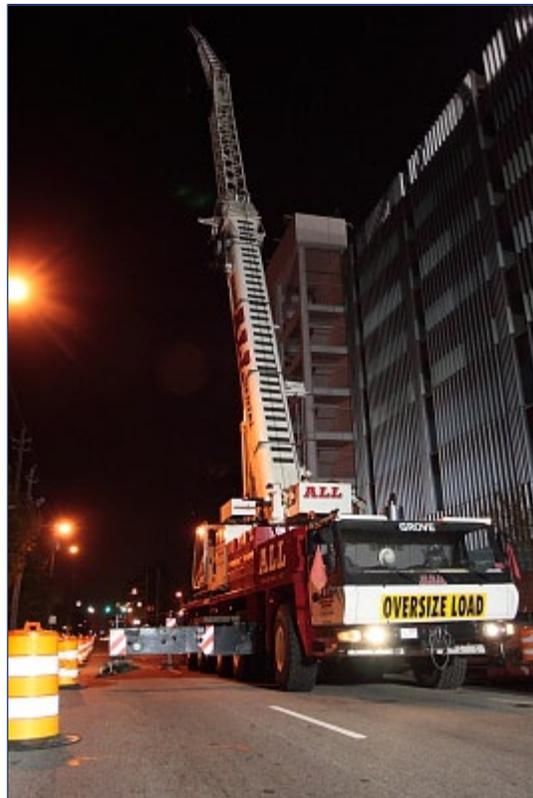
Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

Mystery Crane

10/20/10 46 W, 1 I - + 8 - 3

Where's this big boy blocking traffic? And three lanes of traffic at that! For extra credit, name the model of this five-wheel Grove monster. And aren't they the same company that supplies booms for the legendary Aerialscopes? Click once or twice to enlarge:



Gonna' take a stab at McDowell St., downtown Raleigh.

Silver - 10/20/10 - 21:42

McDowell, between Edenton and Jones, looking north at the new State parking deck.

scfd205 - 10/21/10 - 12:28

Actually you are all wrong as that crane was spotted in Kentucky where my shamu of an ex-wife was trying to get from the front door of her doublewide trailer to her car. That is the only device large enough to give her an assist. ;-)

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 10/22/10 - 19:14

So what are you trying to say Marshall??

Olson - 10/22/10 - 23:03

Bitter much, Marshall? LOL

Duda - 10/24/10 - 10:40

@Duda Naw. Just having a little fun brother. :-)

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 10/24/10 - 11:24

If she aint 280 she aint a lady!!!

Matt Farley - 10/25/10 - 18:11

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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Social Media and Social Sharing

10/21/10 294 W - + 10 - 3

Darn that [Dave Statter](#). He can get a person thinking and making connections about issues being covered in the media. Witness his posting on [Social Media & The Line-of-Duty Death](#). What happens when family members hears of a duty death via Facebook, and before more sensitive (and accurate) channels can be used?

Then there's his earlier story covering the [story of a firefighter's cellphone video](#) taken at an accident scene and subsequent shared with others. As his witty headline notes, both the video and the story have gone viral. That one's making national news.

What connections can we make here? For myself, it's about sharing. Human beings are social creatures. We are constantly communicating about what we see, learn, experience, etc. We share, and all the time. Social media-- or perhaps better labeled social networking technologies- is making it easier than ever to disseminate information. Both in terms of scope and speed.

Bang, and something that's happened to a firefighter is reflected in Facebook postings of "prayers for the _____ family." Blink and an image of an emergency scene has been shared between two people. Stepping back a bit, the next question is the obvious one. What now? Policies and procedures are already being put in place by agencies, for such things as using cellphones or cellphones-as-cameras on scene.

Do such directives need to go further or farther? You can't legislate common sense, goes the adage. And it's pretty darn hard difficult to keep people from acting human. Compelling information has a tendency to spread. Mind you, "information" can be a mixture of opinions, incomplete perceptions, and hard facts. Chew on that for your morning thinking. Discuss as desired. Time to get moving for the 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.

Charlotte's Steamer in Action

10/21/10 193 W, 2 I - + 10 - 4

Here's a [neat video story](#) from WBTV showing Charlotte's steamer "Old Sue" in action. The apparatus is a 1902 American LaFrance Metropolitan, third-size, serial number #2813. They report that the steamer was put through its paces after undergoing a recent restoration. (Operational restoration, no? Believe it underwent an exterior restoration some ten years prior.)

The five-ton engine-- capacity 600 GPM-- was even hitched to a team of horses! The steamer's appearance was also reported in this [News 14 story](#). Over 40 steam engines served in North Carolina, including four for the Charlotte Fire Department. (Raleigh had two, Wilmington had eight!) At least ten have survived. [Read some of that history](#).



Notes

- The steamer is also cited as a 1903 model. The correct year appears to be 1902, as based on such research as [recorded in this document](#).
- If the American and LaFrance fire engine companies didn't merge until 1903, that date from [this Wikipedia page](#), how can a 1902 steamer be named as an ALF? Good question! Maybe the companies were already branding their products prior to 1903. Guess I'll pose this question sometime to Those in the Know.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Garner Station 4 and Lower Insurance Rates

10/23/10 221 W - + 8 - 4

[Here's a Garner Citizen story](#) about the expected impact of Garner Station 4 on insurance rates. The combination fire and EMS facility is located off Raynor Road on Spaceway Court and is expected to open next month. It's located within six miles of some 1,260 residential and 15 commercial properties, which meets the state requirements for a better insurance rating.

As the article notes, the station's response area is "the last large tract of land in [the county's] fire tax district considered unrated for insurance grading purposes." Meaning, those property owners have been paying fire taxes, but haven't been eligible for lower insurance rates due to "fire protection credits." (That disparity was one of the driving factors behind the county's creation of the station, recalls this blogger from Fire Commission meetings.)

The area's "unprotected status" won't change until the Office of the State Fire Marshal inspects and certifies the new fire station, and which will officially extend the county's fire district accordingly. That should happen in February. The county is planning to notify residents once that has happened, and possibly using a phone messaging system similar to reverse 911.

[Read the story](#), which also mentions the other significant impact of the station, which will be reduced response times for fire and EMS units.

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

H is for Hydrant

10/23/10 63 W, 1 I - + 9 - 3

B is for blogger, he's posting this post. F is for fire, which hydrants help fight. M is for mountains, where this picture was took. P is for Pine, the town's name is Spruce Pine. (R is for rolling, which reader's eyes are doing now.) Next up, lessons in basic arithmetic!



C is for Chainsaw

landscaper - 10/28/10 - 17:08

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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

Scenes From Spruce Pine

10/23/10 230 W, 4 I - + 13 - 6

Reporting from the road. This Duplex/Grumman telesquirt is out of service outside Parkway Station 2, which is outside Spruce Pine, N.C. The truck previously served Pineville, N.C. Ah, the telesquirt (my word, not the shorter-spelled brand name). Affordable aerial waterway, and descended from the venerable water tower. If memory serves, only a few hundred water towers were built between about 1870 and 1940. Many stayed in service into the 1960s.



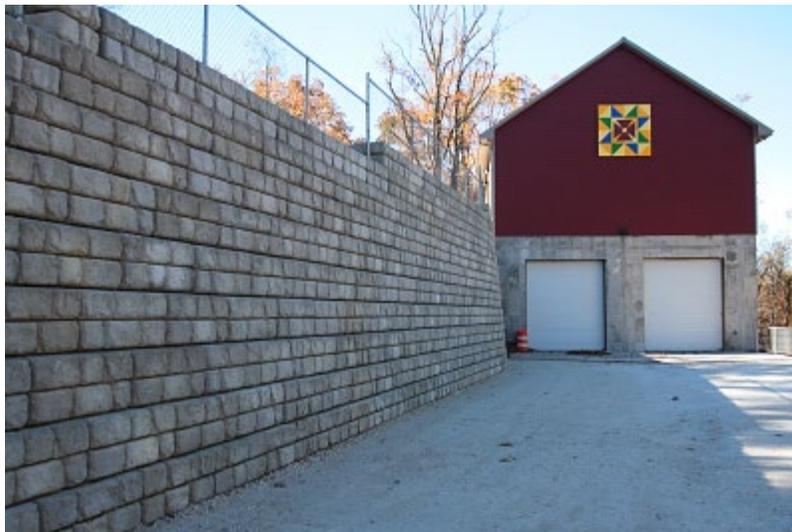
This ambulance parked behind the Spruce Pine town hall-- and former fire station-- is labeled Mitchell Radio Patrol First Responders. Who are they? Older ambulance service? Another entity altogether?



Parked in a field a couple miles outside of Bakersville is this former engine from Burnsville, N.C. The pump is gone and presumably repurposed for agricultural use. Spotted at least one other older engine outside Spruce Pine, on the west side. White American LaFrance Century, it looked like. Guess where I am going this morning?



Here's Parkway Station 3, opened in the last year in Little Switzerland. Three bays facing road side, and two on the basement level. That must have been a minor haul on calls from their other stations, at Spruce Pine and Altapass.



The 'sqrts looks smiliar to Holly Sprins' old one. Me? I was a big fan of the Telesqurt. My house in Maryland had one. With a good crew they packed a helluva punch. Of course, no doubt there would be a town council somewhere that thought 'this is just as good as a ladder truck'. I liked it better than the current quint fad, because when you got down to it, it was an enhanced engine. Noting more.

DJ - 10/23/10 - 13:30

The Mitchell County Radio Patrol as I remember it was a group of ham radio operators in the Spruce Pine & Bakersville areas who served as an emergency services resource, mostly for their communications value. My experience with them was in the area of wilderness search & rescue back when I still called the mountains home. I believe that some very basic first aid training was made available to them (CPR, basic splinting, etc.) but do not recall them as providing care at the BLS level. That leads me to believe that the old ambulance in the photo has probably been gutted and loaded with other equipment — maybe ICS/NIMS stuff, comms equipment, hasty search kits, or something of that sort.

New Orleans had a number of the ol' Sqrts pre-Katrina, and even some of their newer apparatus utilize newer versions of the idea, as shown in this video.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLo-IloFI..>

attic.rat - 10/24/10 - 08:44

Rat, thanks for the info. Looked inside the Radio Patrol ambulance and it's stocked with a couple vintage-looking jump kits and some traffic cones. Otherwise looked functional, if retro. Didn't see a wheeled stretcher, but I think there was a folding one in there.

Secretary of State records show them formed in 1974 as Mitchell Radio Patrol and Emergency Services, Inc. They then changed to Mitchell Radio Patrol and Rescue Squad, Inc., and again to their present name of Mitchel Radio Patrol, Emergency Services & First Responders, Inc.

Legeros - 10/24/10 - 09:02

The Radio Patrol is no more to my knowledge. They were not much of a first responder service when they were around, more or less wackers that wanted to do something but were fire dept rejects.

The old Burnsville engine was a 1969 Ford C/Ward LaFrance with a 1000gpm pump and 750-gallon tank.

BFD1151 - 11/04/10 - 20:56

I know this is old but I was in the radio patrol for 3 years as a board member I was First Responder trained and I enjoyed my role. I never tried for a fire department because I wanted to just do rescue. The White Ambulance in the pic was our rescue truck sadly we did not have the resources that the Fire Departments had such as grants so we worked with old unwanted equipment. We would respond along with Spruce Pine fire department to any needed medical and rescue calls. The ambulance was rarely used unless we was the only ones able to respond we mainly responded in our personal vehicles. My last year was 2008 and haven't heard about them since then. I moved to TN and joined a rescue squad out here.

Ranubis - 05/13/13 - 23:18

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

House Fire, Video Clip, YouTube

10/23/10 275 W - + 10 - 2

[The Fire Critic found this YouTube video](#) of this week's house fire on Springfield Park Drive in north Raleigh. The clip runs eight-plus minutes and shows quite a bit of fire. Defensive ops are started near the end, and a few seconds are shown of Ladder 5 flowing from off-screen. As a bonus, another firefighter-- perhaps a former firefighter, or visiting firefighter-- is present with the videographer, and "narrates" with comments about what's happening with the house.

And why wasn't Yours Truly the first to find this? That one's easy to answer. Mr. Blogger doesn't search for videos, because he didn't think local-shot clips existed. Is this one the first? Or the first in a while?

Discussions can go in a number of directions on this one. There's the incident itself, of course, though most of the fireground action is difficult to discern. That's a factor of distance, and that the Falls pumper is between the camera and the building during much of the clip. (Talking back to your computer and asking the guy to move to the right doesn't work. Tried it.)

We can discuss the quality of the taping, and video techniques therein. Or perhaps consider the implications of video clips themselves. Plenty of fire departments across the country have found themselves taped and clip-posted (and critiqued). Now we're getting a seat at that table.

Sure, citizens have been sharing still shots to news sites for some time now. But working fire footage on YouTube is a new one around here. And presumably such clips will become ever-easier to create and share. Watch, react, discuss.

Thinking more about video in general, what are everyone's favorite sites for finding and watching such clips? Where are the best sites to start?

Legeros - 10/24/10 - 09:05

<http://www.thebravestonline.com>

MIke - 10/24/10 - 12:54

<http://firefighterspot.com/>

Jake T. - 10/24/10 - 12:58

Has videos as well:

<http://www.urbanfirefighter.com/index.ht..>

Jake T. - 10/24/10 - 13:00

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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More Roadside Attractions

10/24/10 126 W, 2 I - + 7 - 3

Couple more old engines as seen along Highway 19, west of Spruce Pine, N.C. First is a formerly lime-green American LaFrance Century (?), and perhaps last used by a water department. There's an amber beacon on the roof, and a conservation sticker on the side. Second is a Seagrave K Series (?), a few decades old and in what looks like pretty good condition. Must be a recent acquisition of the tractor company that owns the thing. Doesn't look like it's been stored outside all that long. No idea where Centre FD is located, nor is Google helpful. Thanks to Mrs. Blogger for her patience in these and other hasty stops.



Finding old apparatus along the highways and byways is really cool. I tend to see several on my trips around the state to various parks, especially the ones further off the beaten path. I just never remember to get any shots of them on my way to or from. Perhaps I'll help out Mr. Blogger with some as I can.

Duda - 10/24/10 - 10:33

Oh, and that ALF looks like a 2000 Series, but I could be mistaken.

Duda - 10/24/10 - 10:34

Yeah, I can never remember to get shots of the old trucks along the highways. The ALF is a Century. The 200's had rectangular headlights. The Century is recognized by the 900/1000 looking front, but they have the 'bulge' fro the jump seats to accommodate putting on SCBA. It was a lot of fun in the narrow 1000 series and similar Seagrave cabs.

DJ - 10/24/10 - 11:02

As Lee mentioned, the white engine is from Wilson and is a 1977 ALF Century 1000/1000. The other engine is a 1973 Seagrave PB 1250/500. Both trucks have been sitting outside since 2007 in the same spots, rusting away.

BFD1151 - 11/04/10 - 21:06

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Durham Highway on Davis Circle

10/24/10 192 W, 2 I - + 8 - 8

Back in town, back on the computer. Since we've been discussing Durham Highway and their original station at 6802 Davis Circle, here are a couple pictures of same. That is, bits and pieces of the building.

Mr. Blogger did some serious photo research in the 2000s, while working on his *Raleigh and Wake County Firefighting* books. Here are the only images he found of the Davis Circle station. They were scanned from photos in possession of DHFD (top) and Dale Johnson (bottom).

The land for the fire station was deeded to Durham Highway Fire Department in 1965. The owner was Tom Bailey, President of Central Mack Sales. He provided the lot located behind the Amoco service station, and with the stipulation that the property return to his ownership when no longer used for fire protection.

The department's first apparatus is pictured, a Army surplus "deuce and a half" that bought for \$500. They added a pump and a tank, and it served until their 1965 Chevrolet/Darley pumper arrived. That truck's pictured in the second photo. We'll let the old-timers continue the story from there... Click to enlarge:



Nut Response Unit

10/24/10 33 W, 1 I - + 9 - 3

But does your department have a Pecan Truck in its fleet? Maybe in the Special Operations Division. As seen earlier today in Avery County...



Did you get a pecan side? Bet it was nuttin' fancy.

Todd D - 10/25/10 - 12:29

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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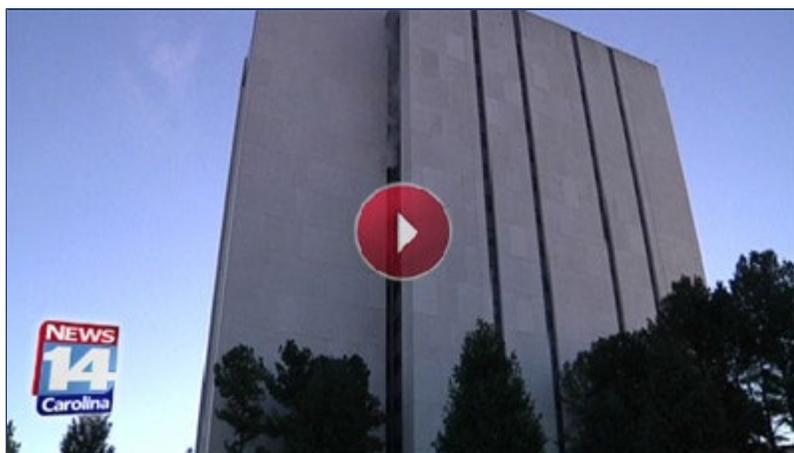
What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?

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

Raleigh Firefighters Simulate High-Rise Drill

10/24/10 72 W, 1 I - + 7 - 8

[Here's a nice News 14 story](#) about Saturday's high-rise drill at the Archdale Building in downtown Raleigh. The exercise simulated a fire on the tenth floor, and even included an outside-venting smoke machine for added realism. The 94-second clip includes good exterior footage and interviews with a couple firefighters. Participating agencies included Raleigh fire, Wake County EMS, Raleigh police, State Capitol police, and the Raleigh/Wake ECC.



This was a fantastic drill! There was a significant amount of planning for this training and I for one appreciate the RFD efforts! Hats off to Capt. Hobson, BC Johnson, BC Spain, DC Spain, Capt. Siebel, and Capt. Hicks! (apologize if I missed anyone else). Also... notice Engine 8A highlighted (not that I'm biased or anything like that).

A.C. Rich - 10/24/10 - 23:40

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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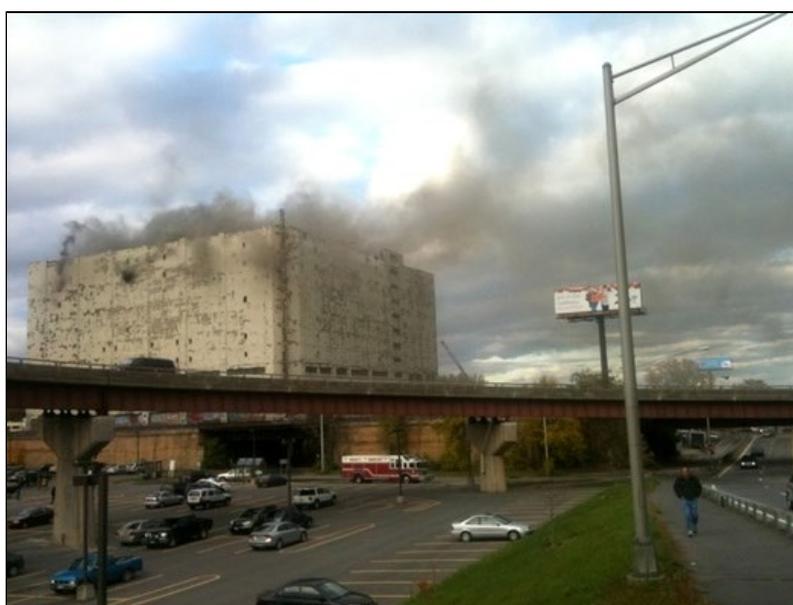
Cold Storage Fire in Albany, NY

10/25/10 132 W, 1 I - + 9 - 2

Speaking of high-rise buildings (albeit monolithic commercial structures that are pretty rare around here), [The FireCritic finds this story](#) of an 11-story cold storage warehouse that's burning in Albany, N.Y. The fire started on Friday, and the building was been deemed too dangerous to enter.

[This All Over Albany story](#) has the story and links. By Sunday, the thing was smoldering, but the building appeared in no danger of collapse. [Read that Times Union story](#). Here are [some scene photos](#) from an urban explorer. The fire also has folks thinking about the [Worcester cold storage warehouse fire](#) in 1999 that killed six firefighters.

For Monday morning discussion, what commercial or industrial hazards around here get you thinking about worst-case scenarios?



All Over Albany Photo

Any building in the "warehouse district" in downtown Raleigh. The old Sir Walter Apartments downtown as well. The basement of that place has an old "speak-easy" that is solid wood. It's a maze down there too, with low ceilings and tight spaces here and there.

Also, I always remember the senior Durham guys always talking about 801 Angier Ave. and how much of a fire trap it is/was.

Silver - 10/26/10 - 04:52

In Garner I would say Olde School Commons at 742 W Garner Rd. It is ordinary construction and at one time was the high school. Quite some time ago it was converted to apartments for old people, so that is a lot of doors to force and a lot of people that will need assistance to get out. You would have to stretch courtyard lays to get to all the apts on the different floors there. Very manpower intensive.

Mike - 10/26/10 - 09:29

anything that has a bow-string roof, most notable Martin Architectural off E. Chatham St in Cary, very heavy fire load and dangerous, cut up construction. Along those same lines, the Kelly Building at the NC State Fairgrounds is also Bow-String and very dangerous depending on the function it is used for at the time. Come to think of it, everything at the Fairgrounds is tactically challenging, especially during the fair or other activities.

Big, Bigger, Biggest?

10/25/10 57 W, 1 I - + 11 - 4

Seeing this familiar monster at the State Fairgrounds today gets me thinking: what are the largest emergency vehicles in service around the area and/or the state? This mobile command and communications unit is a pretty big one. What's larger? Please answer for both articulated and "straight" trucks. Click to enlarge:



Raleigh's new 2010 pierce tiller is pretty large.

charlie - 10/26/10 - 02:07

also Raleigh's hasmat 1, and hasmat 2, the Mass Casualty, Decon, And USAR tractor trailers are big, as is Cary's tactical rescue tractor trailer. also there is wake county ems' rehab truck, and the mass casualty bus are also big apparatus.

charlie - 10/26/10 - 02:14

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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Public Meeting Tonight About Suspicious Fires in Smithfield

10/26/10 212 W - + 8 - 6

[As this WRAL story reports](#), a public meeting is planned for tonight, Tuesday, October 26, to share exchange information with citizens about suspicious fires in the Smithfield area ~~a series of suspicious fires in Johnston County~~. The meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. at South Smithfield Primary School, [201 W. Sanders Street](#). The meeting is a regularly scheduled community policing meeting held by the Smithfield Police Department.

The story cites officials saying that multiple arsonists may be at work in the county, which has seen 35 suspicious fires in the last 12 months. Clayton's seen nine intentional fires since October 2009, largely in homes either new or under construction. Since April 2010, a total of 20 fires in southern Johnston County have been set in barns and vacant houses.

Investigating agencies include Smithfield police, Clayton police, Johnston County's Sheriff's Office, and the State Bureau of Investigation. A similar meeting was held in Clayton in May, [recounts this NBC17 story](#).

A reward of \$5,000 is offered for any information that leads to the arrest and prosecution of the person responsible for any or all of these fires. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Smithfield Police Department at 919-934-2121, or confidentially on the department's tip line at 919-989-8835.

Mike, to clear things up a little, tonight's meeting is a regularly scheduled community policing meeting held by the Smithfield Police Department. There will be discussion to increase awareness of the fires that have occurred in Smithfield. At this point, there are no plans to discuss the fires in the County nor the fires in Clayton. There has obviously been some confusion related to tonight's meeting.

Chris Perry ([Web Site](#)) - 10/26/10 - 08:15

Thanks Chris. Post updated a bit.

Legeros - 10/26/10 - 08:27

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'?

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

Digital Media Collections

10/26/10 290 W - + 12 - 3

Some years ago, we meaning me created a Raleigh Fire Department [Virtual Museum web site](#). The concept was simple, and modeled on similar sites. Just a chronological, page-by-page presentation of old photos, historic documents, and even photographed artifacts. Nothing fancy, and not updated with any regular frequency. The last "exhibit" is dated 2006, a montage of training tower construction photos. Memo to self: time for an update!

Today, virtual museums-- or better called digital media collections-- are looking better than ever. Web pages and user interfaces are in their second- and third-generations. Sites are cleaner, and functioning better. High-speed internet access is widely available, and pages and page content can load faster. This allows for larger and more robust collections. Audio and video content is also being increasingly integrated into web sites and digital collections. Social media integration is certainly next, if not already there.

All of which sets the stage for something Mrs. Blogger stumbled upon. As this [Firehouse.com article relates](#), the 150-year history of the Indianapolis Fire Department is being presented through a newly expanded digital media collection from the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library. The content includes over 1,000 photos, log books, audio clips, video clips, and three-dimensional objects.

How did they do it? The project was a partnership between the library, a university, a community foundation, and the Indianapolis Firefighters Museum. [Read the article](#), and then visit the digital collection at <http://digitallibrary.imcpl.org/ffm/>.

As for digital media collections in North Carolina, here are a couple worth browsing, and all of which contain historic firefighting images:

- [Digital Forsyth](#)
- [Durham County Public Library - North Carolina Collection](#)
- [New Hanover County Public Library - Collections](#) (click left nav for digital collections)

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](#))

Severe Weather in South Roxboro

10/27/10 63 W, 1 I - + 11 - 7

[WRAL has posted](#) this viewer photo of a funnel cloud seen in South Roxboro this afternoon. Storm warnings abound as thunderstorms continue to pass through our area. [FireNews has posted this report](#) of last night's storm damage on the western side of the state. Several structures were destroyed, and 11 people were injured in the storms.



WRAL photo

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

Mystery Building

10/27/10 23 W, 1 I - + 10 - 13

Where is this building, and what's its significance to the local fire service?



A former Cary firehouse on Cedar St. a block behind the current fire admin.

the2House - 10/28/10 - 16:41

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.

Buzz, Buzz, Swoosh, Applause

10/27/10 52 W - + 8 - 7

Here's your pre-Friday video find. Citizens enjoy the show in Cincinnati, in this [transformer fire footage found by Dave Statter](#). There's something particularly mesmerizing about a crackling transformer. Maybe it's the sheer lethality of the electricity on display. Water is gingerly (dangerously?) applied, and the crowd applauds...

Based on Statter reader comments, this footage appears to depict entirely unsafe operations. Does that make this a close call video? Or of similar instruction value?

Furthermore, my casual irreverence is perhaps inappropriate to the gravity of what's depicted. What say you? If this post (or even just the emded) disappears, it'll be because it failed the post-posting smell test.

Legeros - 10/28/10 - 07:59

Well, one thing's for sure... the videographer is VERY proud of his "old crib." Yet, the power pole was saved from certain destruction!! ...oh, did the videographer forget to mention where he used to live? All aside, it's an interesting video. It would have been a perfect "close call" example to see the firefighter get knocked on his a\$\$ when three phase hit the nozzle!

A.C. Rich - 10/28/10 - 16:24

What would be a more proper way to handle this situation? Even though I am relatively new to firefighting, I know that water is no good for a Charlie fire.

Rookie - 10/28/10 - 19:33

I know enough about electricity to know that it will LIGHT YOUR A\$\$ UP IF YOU AREN'T CAREFUL WITH IT!! This is what I'd do if it was my gig.

1. "Dispatch, put a rush on the power company";
2. Get the onlookers BACK, BACK, BACK, even if it means one of them missing a fourth shot of "the old crib";
3. Check exposures; if needed, use a broken stream to wet them down (I realize it isn't an optimum way to protect them but it's better than

nothing), and on this job it appears they're all brick.

4. Stop walking underneath the damn power lines;

5. Test an A-B-C extinguisher on it with short bursts, might reach just enough to knock it down if you have an exposure issue.

6. Wait.

7. Don't use corny lines like "always somethin' poppin' up here", just because the transformer is poppin'...

Silver - 10/28/10 - 20:29

Why do anything to it at all? You can tell at the 5:00 mark the circuit breaker finally trips, resets, trips and resets again, and finally trips for the last time requiring a manual reset to gain function which is how a thermal snap action circuit breaker operates. Rookie, you should leave the thing alone, keep bystanders away, and protect exposures if needed and can be done safely. Let the power company handle it.

RescueRanger - 10/28/10 - 22:22

Exactly! Like I said, I know jack\$hit about it besides it WILL KILL YOU!! That's all you really need to know Rook'...

Silver - 10/28/10 - 23:07

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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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Ambulance Design, Safety Improvements, Sprinter Chassis

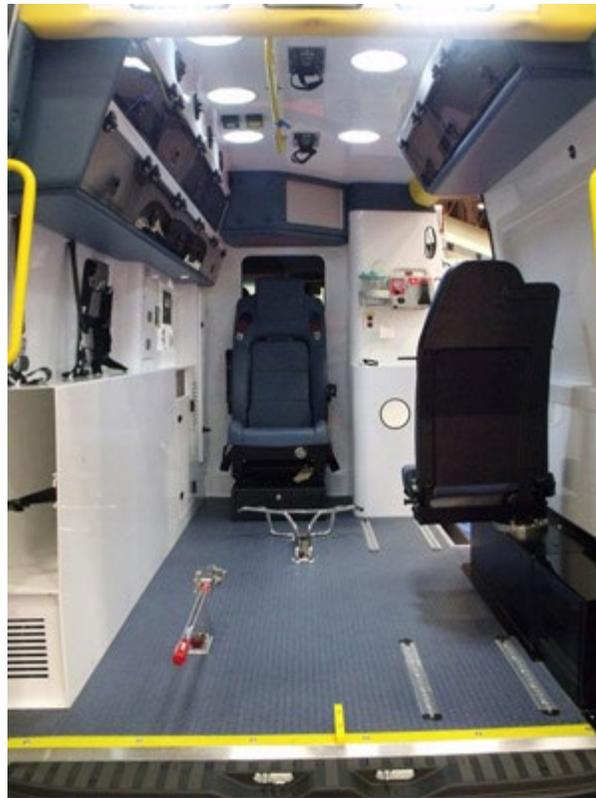
10/28/10 160 W, 1 I - + 10 - 8

From [this posting](#) on his 9-ECHO-1 blog, reader DJ [finds this posting](#) from A Day in the Life of An Ambulance Driver on the subject of design improvements for safety. Meaning, greater structural integrity of ambulance modules, padded cabinetry, etc.

And, in a new design built by Crestline Coach on a Mercedes Sprinter chassis, pivoting bucket seats equipped with four-point restraint systems. As for the familiar bench, that's gone.

What's the inside of the thing look like? ADITLOAD (now that's an acronym!) has posted a couple photos. And what are people's experiences with Sprinter-chassis ambulances, versus the modular boxes? Check out the reader comments, which number a couple dozen.

Our readers-- notably DJ-- can and hopefully will expand further on these subjects. We've discussed fire apparatus safety on many occasions. Let's turn to transport vehicles for a change. Read both of the postings from [9-ECHO-1](#) and [ADITLOAD](#).



On a related note, the NFPA is currently working on the draft of its first standard concerning the construction and design of ambulances. Those that are interested might wanna have a peek. Check out the Next Edition tab at this link:

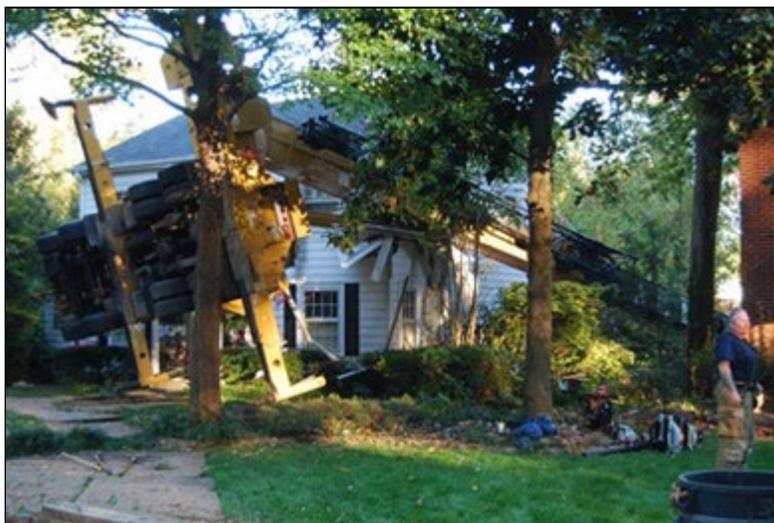
<http://www.nfpa.org/1917>

attic.rat - 10/28/10 - 23:00

Crane Versus House

10/30/10 68 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

[FireNews has posted photos](#) of a construction accident in Gastonia on Thursday, October 21. Workers trying to topple a tree instead saw their 70-ton crane fall into a house. Part of the boom was damaged, and had to be cut away before the vehicle was removed. Jim Landis took the very interesting photos of a very unusual incident. [Read the story.](#)



Jim Landis/FireNews photo

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.

Happy Halloween #1

10/30/10 40 W, 1 I - + 8 - 6

Reader Jeff Silver snapped this photo of seasonal decorations by Ladder 1 at Station 4 in Raleigh. Carving credit to "A" shift. Who else has holiday decorations to share?



For those following the silly trend of municipalities and communities "rescheduling" Halloween— or at least trick-or-treating— here's a WRAL blog posting with the latest local information: [http://www.wral.com/lifestyles/goaskmom/..](http://www.wral.com/lifestyles/goaskmom/)

And a New York Times story that factors in all the religious, educational, and even sports-related concerns: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/29/us/29h..>

Legeros - 10/30/10 - 07:04

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Happy Halloween #2

10/30/10 27 W, 1 I - + 9 - 8

Superb short film by Greg Nicotero. *The United Monster Talent Agency*. Eight minutes of movie-monster bliss. Boo.



...in the words of the immortal Chris Farley, "that was awesome"

Jake T. - 10/30/10 - 11:16

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Before Rushing To The Hospital

10/31/10 40 W, 1 I - + 10 - 11

Take a moment to get online and check the wait at the emergency room! As seen this weekend in Timonium, Maryland. That's a town just north of Baltimore.



They even have an iphone & android app that apparently keeps track of waiting times. Granted, if you attend the ER so often that you need an app to keep you updated you might be wandering into Tim "The Toolman" Taylor/Home Improvement territory and maybe need to rethink your decision making skills :-)

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 10/31/10 - 12:25

ER over crowding is a problem, although it is a problem that has been years in the making. Some folks don't have a doctor, so they go to the ED. Other folks have a doctor, and when they call their doctor, he says "go to the emergency room", rather than deal with the problem. And of course, some of those doctors will say "and call 9-1-1 so you will get seen quicker".

But then there are the folks who are in the ED time and time again, so often that the ED staff knows them. Sometimes they are nursing home residents, but other times they are just 'frequent flyers', who go to the ED for every sniffle, ache, or pain, or just go to hang out in the waiting room and watch TV.

And those folks are not going to read one of these billboards or the one that says that EMS is not a taxi.

Oh yeah, the website is the hospital's website. They say they have cut the wait time to see a 'healthcare professional' to just 14 minutes. That's the 'initial' triage nurse. That does not include the time spent waiting to see the nurse to check your vitals and start your chart, then the doctor, then x-rays and labs, then the doctor again....

DJ - 10/31/10 - 13:19

Name: (real name)

Remember personal info?

Private Fire Station

10/31/10 62 W, 2 I - + 6 - 6

Seen somewhere in or near Gaithersburg, Maryland. Four-bay building attached to a private residence, and with a pair of huge sirens on towers in the front lawn. Now that's a man cave! Was pressed for time and only briefly peekd inside the bay windows. Apparatus collector of some sort. Click to enlarge:



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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment:

[/ Textile](#)

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Inside the Ladder Shop at the San Francisco Fire Department

11/01/10 139 W - + 7 - 6

From a reader, here's one of the neatest videos you'll see some time. San Francisco Fire Department ladder shop, and how they build and repair their trademark wooden ladders. Why wood? Because the ladders don't conduct electricity in a city with many narrow streets and low-hanging high-voltage power lines. How long do they take to build? After the wood cures for 15 years (!), they can be hand-built in about two weeks. How long do they last? Watch as a 90-year-old (!!) ladder is repaired and returned to service. How big do they make them? The largest, [says this SFFD web page](#), is a 50-footer that weights 350 pounds. That's six firefighters to lift the thing. Cool stuff.

[Inside the Ladder Shop at the San Francisco Fire Department](#) from [AdamKaplan](#) on [Vimeo](#).

Once I saw this online I knew I had to submit it to Mike. :)

Hope everyone enjoys this look at a very cool piece of history still in use!

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 11/01/10 - 21:17

Cool video and history

JD - 11/02/10 - 17:13

I developing training for emergency responders (firefighters) and was asked by a subject matter expert that I am working with a course on if we could use this Ladder Shop video in our course to enhance instruction. How do I reach the person who "owns" the video to seek permission to use it. I understand that Joel Connable produced it. Would I need to ask him for permission? And if so, how can I reach him?

Thank you very much,

Carla Fisher

Texas Engineering Extension Service

Texas A&M University

College Station, TX 77840

carla fisher ([Email](#)) - 09/05/11 - 16:49

I would contact the PIO office for San Francisco FD. It's their ladder shop and I'm sure they would know.

Mike - 09/05/11 - 19:40

Old School Scheduling Tool

11/01/10 118 W, 1 I - + 7 - 7

Here's an interesting artifact as displayed in the [District of Columbia Fire/EMS Museum](#), which is located on the third floor of Engine 3 at 439 New Jersey Avenue NW. That's about two blocks from the United States Capitol. The museum opened to the public in January, and has 4,000 square-feet displaying hundreds of historical items. That's also how that mystery photo came about.

Shown below is a scheduling tool that probably dates to mid-20th century. Back when the department had only two platoons. The paddles list the engine company rosters, and are slid into the appropriate day of the week. The center paddles list the chiefs. Many more pictures later. Click to enlarge:



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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Firehouse Auto Repair

11/02/10 44 W, 1 I - + 7 - 3

Or is it fire house, two words? Reader Jeff Silver sends a picture of a new purpose for old Station 3 on Carpenter Fire Station Road in Morrisville. Love the rally design of the doors.



Is it firefighter owned and operated?

Apex Batt Chief - 11/02/10 - 20:20

It is the Old Morrisville Fire station 3

Ed Allen ([Email](#)) - 11/03/10 - 18:18

Hey Everyone, Ed can read!! Just messin' Ed, hahahaha. Yes Ed, it's stated above. This wasn't one of Mikey's Mystery Photos, just a reader contribution.

Silver - 11/03/10 - 20:44

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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The Numbers in Chapel Hill

11/03/10 91 W - + 8 - 5

The *News & Observer* has [posted some stats](#) on Chapel Hill's Halloween celebration, including the numbers of responders present. From their Orange County blog:

- 318 law enforcement officers from Wake, Durham, Orange and Chatham counties.
- 60 fire personnel from Orange Rural, Hamlet, and Raleigh fire departments, with Morrisville, North Chatham, and Durham fire departments on standby.
- 35 EMS workers from Orange County, South Orange Rescue, and Parkwood.
- 53 portable toilets
- 21 light towers
- 950 traffic cones
- 150 additional trash barrels
- 4 street sweeper trucks
- 3 street washing trucks
- 3.25 hours from Franklin Street closure to reopening.

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Upcoming Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies

11/03/10 60 W - + 9 - 6

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies are upcoming for new EMS and fire/EMS facilities in Wake County. Expect attendance by county officials, town officials, agency officers, members of the media, and other interested parties. The particulars:

Durant Road EMS Station

[10000 Durant Road](#)

Monday, November 8

11:00 a.m.

Garner Fire Department/Wake County EMS Station

[125 Spaceway Court](#)

Wednesday, December 1

10:00 a.m.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

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No

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Church Steeple Rescue in Charlotte

11/03/10 90 W - + 7 - 7

[FireNews finds this vertiginous video](#) of Charlotte firefighters rescuing a worker from the steeple of First Presbyterian Church on West Trade Street. The guy was suspended about 100 feet in the air, tangled in ropes that became twisted during high winds. The worker wasn't fazed--he's a paramedic and search and rescuer, so "he kept working." Crews helped untangle his ropes, and pulled him through a window. Nice footage of monster Rescue 10 arriving, as well. Cue AC/DC, the song with the bagpipes.

Now that's a Rescue Truck!

AB - 11/04/10 - 09:41

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Speaking of Charlotte, they've recently updated [their web site](#). Nicely arranged design of the home page. Detailed information on people, equipment, facilities, and programs. Some multimedia in there. Bios of command staff. Twitter feed widget on home page. Very interesting, very cool. Visit the site at <http://charmack.org/city/charlotte/Fire>.



How does the site compare or contrast with other departments around the state? Links are located to the right, but, really, we're talking apples to oranges. Not only are the size and scope of the departments different, they vary in resources available for web development. The people, skills, staffing, and technology available for creating web sites. They also likely differ in their strategic goals for public information and web presence. Different priorities.

- [Raleigh](#)
- [Durham](#)
- [Cary](#)
- [Fayetteville](#)
- [Greensboro](#)
- [Winston-Salem](#)
- [High Point](#)
- [Asheville](#)
- [Wilmington](#)
- [Rocky Mount](#)

Heck, the base platforms (technology tools) are probably all different. Many municipalities use software that manages the entire town or city's web site. Some software packages are newer, some are older. Some are better-featured, some are less-better with features. There are many reasons why web sites are different between fire departments.

Note that we're talking **official** sites. Some departments have "unofficial" sites that eclipse the official ones in style, scope, or content. If you want detailed information about the Durham Fire Department, for example, you can tool over to [this unofficial site](#). And we know how much information about the Raleigh Fire Department is available on [this site by Yours Truly](#).

Finally, for your Thursday morning discussion topic, what fire department web sites around the state are you liking these days? And/or, which ones have been updated to noted effect?

Well duh, <http://www.legeros.com> as an un-official representation of the Capital city!

Silver - 11/04/10 - 11:28

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Awareness is Good

11/04/10 35 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

Both on the fireground and at the fire station. You never know what hazard is around the next corner. Thanks for passing along, Mystery Joker.



Shenanigans! What station is that?

RescueRanger - 11/05/10 - 20:02

11/2....and they ALMOST got me, but I'm a tad too sharp for that ol' gag.

Silver - 11/05/10 - 23:54

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Challenge Coins

11/05/10 83 W, 1 I - + 5 - 4

For weekend discussion as suggested by a reader overseas (thanks Scottie!), who has [challenge coins](#) in their department? [This Wikipedia article](#) tells all about them, from their origins (military) to their uses (challenges, awards, etc.). Raise your hand if your fire or EMS department has had them made for members. Or perhaps are planning to have them made. And based on Google searches, there appears quite a market for them these days!



Falls had their Christmas Dinner this evening. All the memebers got one. They are really nice.

Marcus - 11/05/10 - 23:18

Cary FD Firehouse 4 has one

CFP 7021 - 11/06/10 - 11:22

Wake & District are in the process of designing and ordering them

Mike - 11/06/10 - 13:52

I have had the privilege of being presented coins from several High ranking military officials. Having been in the Military and having worked overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan in the contract fire service on military bases the FD coins go along ways with the troops. I have had several designed for the departments as well as personal use to be presented. I find it comes with a lot of pride and tradition when issuing and receiving a coin.

Scottie

shfireinv ([Email](#)) - 11/06/10 - 22:13

RDU Crash Fire Rescue has a challenge coin. It is very nice.

JG - 11/07/10 - 10:46

Who wants to share pictures? Snap `n` send and I will add them to this posting.

Legeros - 11/07/10 - 11:18

Sent you a pic of our coin at New Hope. NH200A

AB - 11/07/10 - 23:48

If any of you guys have coins for sale or trade, I collect them and have a couple doubles for which I can trade you, and of course, I will purchase them if they're for sale.

Duda - 11/09/10 - 10:48

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

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No

Comment:

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Cary Station 8

11/06/10 129 W, 1 I - + 9 - 1

Some details have emerged on Cary's planned Fire Station 8, to be located at [408 Mills Park Drive](#) on the western side of town. The schedule, as noted on [this town web page](#), shows the project current in design phase. Constructed in planned for fall 2011, with completion in fall 2012. The two-story (!) station will have three apparatus bays, measure 13,700 square-feet, and include a 1,160 square-foot satellite police station.

The facility is also planned as a "green build" pilot project, details of which are noted in draft minutes from the town's Environmental Advisory Board on [May 11](#) and [June 1](#). Looks like the designer is [ADW Architects](#), a Charlotte firm that has designed fire stations for the Queen City. No drawings or pictures of Cary's new fire station are found... yet.



Seeing the elevations and the floorplans just the other day it is going to be a vast departure from current firehouses in Cary. 2 story, and thus.... 2 poles. Also horizontal opening bi-fold bay doors versus traditional overhead doors, I believe a first in Wake County?

Dayroom/kitchen and all meeting spaces, lobby and offices on floor 1, dorm, workout room and locker room on floor 2.

CFP 7021 - 11/06/10 - 11:27

Holy crap Cary is going back to the traditional style firehouse...What has happened down south since I left. Are they serious about Poles I deffinatly didn't see Cary as a Department to allow poles to be in use.

PGtruckie ([Email](#)) - 11/06/10 - 20:00

I assume there are plans for an elevator? If not, curious on how the design meets ADA approval?

RescueRanger - 11/06/10 - 22:13

yes there is an elevator in order to meet ADA. And yes 2 poles, one toward the front of the station and one toward the rear. Hopefully once the design is finalized there will be some images to post, but it's a very traditional looking firehouse.

CFP 7021 - 11/07/10 - 10:07

Name: (real name preferred)
E-mail: (optional)
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No

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/ [Textile](#)

Public Records and Sunshine

11/06/10 277 W - + 5 - 5

As someone who loves learning about local fire departments and their operations and plans, public records are a godsend. City minutes, town minutes, requests for bids, bid awards, you name it. This reader is a bonafide geek. There are also laws that require such public information, and they're commonly called "sunshine laws." That's why the web address of those Cary town minutes in the prior posting fittingly contains the word "sunshine." So-called "sunshine laws" also relate to open meeting laws.

For your consideration for Saturday discussion, what's your perception or experience with "sunshine laws." What are your experiences and opinions of requests for information, be they from citizens, journalists, peers, or officials? How do public records and open meeting requirements impact your departments? There will be some apples to oranges here. Say, municipal-provided services versus those delivered by private corporations. As well as differences among municipalities themselves, at least as observed from trying to find information on the Internet between Town X and Town Y, or City A and City B.

And that's the whole reason that we're here. The Internet age. The availability of digital data. In days of old, when knights were bold, you had to trek to city hall. Now there's this thing called Google. Type a few words, and the secrets of the universe are revealed within seconds. And it's been that way for some years now. What's been the impact? What's still needed? Discuss as desired, even though this may be both (a.) a snoozer to some readers and (b.) perhaps tricky for official opinions from others.

Name: (real name preferred)
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Small print: All html tags except and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

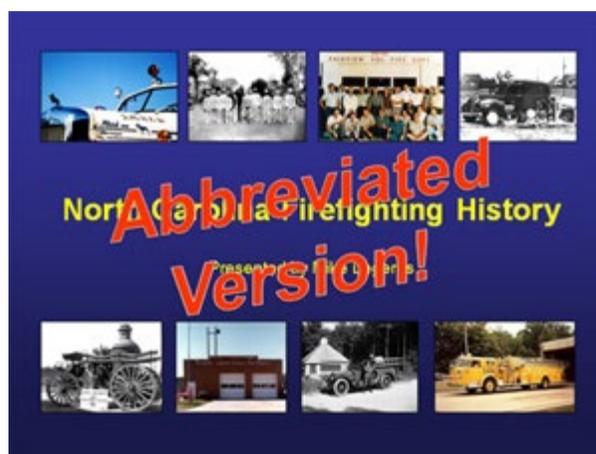
History Talk at County Firefighter Supper, Tuesday, Nov. 9

11/06/10 142 W, 1 I - + 6 - 3

Historian Mike Legeros (moi) presents an abbreviated version of his History of North Carolina Firefighting presentation on Tuesday, November 9. It's part of that evening's [Wake County Firefighters Association](#) fall supper and meeting.

The location is Western Wake Fire-Rescue at [4021 District Drive](#). The time is 6:30 p.m., or at least that's when serving starts. The agenda for the meeting includes electing board officers for 2011. All members are encouraged to attend.

The history talk is planned for 30 minutes. The presentation may include a brightly colored, tropical shirt, depending upon the temperature in the apparatus bay. You can also read ahead and see the slides from [the long-version of the history talk](#). Just keep the heckling and throwing of fruits and vegetables to a minimum on Tuesday. See you then.



Name: (real name preferred)

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No

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

Fire Balloons During World War II

11/07/10 605 W, 1 I - + 9 - 3

For today's random history lesson, let's turn the clock back to World War II. Our country and our allies were at war with Japan and Germany. Only a handful of attacks were made on the United States mainland, and only one incident resulted in fatalities. These were the six people killed in southern Oregon by a balloon bomb launched days earlier from Japan. What!?! Bombs on balloons, and carried across the Pacific Ocean!?! Here's the condensed version of a story many have never heard.¹

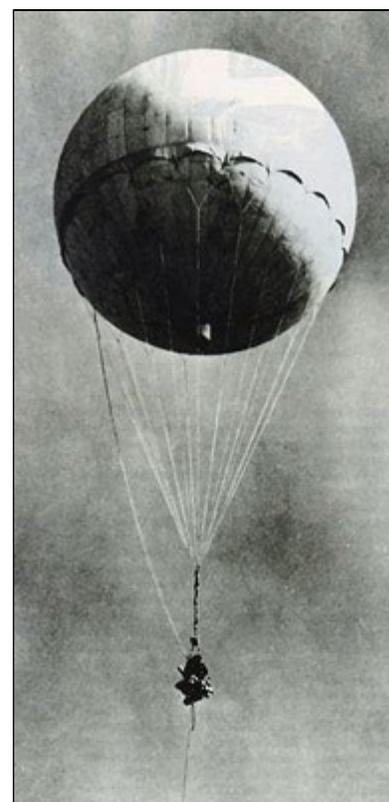
The plan was deviously simple. Launch balloons carrying incendiary bombs from Japan, let the jet stream carry them across the ocean, and use mechanical timers to release and explode the bombs. The results would be destruction of property, deaths of people, and demoralization of everyone. The resulting balloons were hydrogen-filled, measured 33-feet in diameter, and equipped with devices to increase and decrease their altitude, based on atmospheric heating and cooling of the hydrogen.²

Between November 1944 and April 1945, they launched over 9,000 of the fire balloons. Some 300 were found or observed in North America. They were found in 16 states in the West and Midwest. Plus Canada, Mexico, and Alaska. They did exceptionally minimal damage, and resulted in only set of fatalities. Since the Japanese chose the time of year when the jet stream was strongest, this was also the time of year when American forests were largely too damp to easily catch fire.

The fatal attack occurred on May 5, 1945, when a Pastor, his pregnant wife, and five of their teenage Sunday-school students found a balloon on the ground in the forest of Gearhart Mountain in southern Oregon. As they approached the craft, the bomb exploded, killing the wife and the five children. The husband was not harmed. They are the only known deaths in the continental states as a result of enemy action.

There was also no press coverage of the balloons at that time, as the Office of Censorship requested in January of that year that newspapers and radio stations refrain from mentioning balloons and balloon-bomb incidents. This embargo was lifted after the deaths, to ensure the public was warned. The Japanese ceased operations in April 1945. It was costly, two of three needed hydrogen plants had been destroyed by bombers, and they had no evidence of results. In that regard, the lack of press was probably good.³

How does this history relate to what happened in North Carolina during the war years? Well, we were on guard against such aerial attacks. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, State Fire Marshal Sherwood Brockwell gathered the state's fire chiefs and began instruction on preparations for war-time operations. Among his presentations included information on bombs and aerial devices. Some fire departments including Raleigh formed auxiliary fire companies, comprised of citizen volunteers. This initiative was also designed to help with staffing reductions due to the draft. Municipalities also practiced blackout drills, to ensure that both citizens and responders acted appropriately in the event of enemy attack.



¹The balloons are mentioned in travel writer Bill Bryson's hilarious autobiography *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*, which is Mr. Blogger's current audio book.

²[This Wikipedia page](#) and its referenced sources provides extensive technical information on the balloons, their devices, and the history behind them.

³The United States remained practically unscathed as a result of enemy action during World War II. Other countries suffered extensive life loss and property damage. It was perhaps history's most difficult period for for the firefighters of those nations. Fire historian Paul Ditzel wrote

good book about that subject, [Firefighting During World War II](#).

It's amazing how serious the folks 'over there' take fire prevention. I guess having your city fire bombed (Hamburg, Dresden, Tokyo, Yokohama, Rotterdam, London, and more) does do that for you.

DJ - 11/07/10 - 15:32

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More About REDS Mission Trip to Guatemala

11/07/10 131 W, 1 I - + 9 - 2

This week's *Midtown Raleigh News* [published a nice article](#) about this summer's mission trip to Guatemala by Garner-based Rescue Extrication Delivery Specialists (REDS). There they helped train 50 military members and firefighters on rescue techniques, such as vehicle extrication. This was the team's second trip, having first traveled there in 2009 to train military personnel. This year, they expanded the training to include firefighters, and expanded the rescue techniques taught. As the article notes, as their week-long visit concluded, each team member was awarded the Ambassadors of Peace to Guatemala Award. They are the only people in the United States to have received the honor. Nice work, gang. [Read the entire article](#), or see [our prior posting](#) about their trip.



REDS / Midtown Raleigh News photo

Name: (real name preferred)

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Yes

No

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Challenge Coins: Part Deux

As discussed in our prior posting, here are some examples of fire department challenge coins. Cary, Falls, New Hope, and a trio from overseas, from a Chief with local ties. Keep the photos coming! Click to enlarge each.

Cary Engine 4
Cary, NC



Falls FD
Wake County, NC



Wake New Hope FD
Wake County, NC



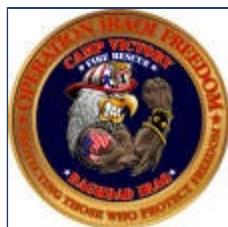
WSI Fire and Emergency
service
Chief Harris
Iraq



Forward Operating Base Spin
Boldak
Afghanistan



Camp Victory base complex
Baghdad, Iraq



Where can u get these made? How much do they cost?

Want one! - 11/08/10 - 21:33

Mike,

The Victory Base Complex and Forward Operating Base Spin Boldak are reversed as far as the title with the pic

shfireinv ([Email](#)) - 11/08/10 - 22:31

Thanks, fixed.

Legeros - 11/08/10 - 22:32

If any of you New Hope guys are reading, I'd love one of your coins, as I'm a collector of such. If any Cary guy has one of the St. 4 coins (I have it on good info they're out of 'em), I'd love one of those, too. Scottie, when do we get the Boldak ones?

Duda - 11/09/10 - 10:43

Sorry, I forgot to include Falls, too! Didn't mean to leave you out!

Duda - 11/09/10 - 10:44

Duda.....they are being printed now and should ship out by the end of the week. I also just approved the design for our T-Shirts
scottie

shfireinv ([Email](#)) - 11/09/10 - 10:53

You can get the coins made at <http://www.pindepot.com> .. Duda come find me, I think I got a couple left.

NH100 ([Email](#)) - 11/13/10 - 01:25

I have had Delta Challenge Coins make several of my coins here is the website address for <http://www.deltachallengecoins.com/>

shfireinv ([Email](#)) - 11/13/10 - 02:35

Great look'in coins y'all. Gotta get some for Stony Hill. SHFD patch on one side... a "likker still" on the other side!

A.C. Rich - 11/13/10 - 17:41

Which means, A.C., they could also be used as Raleigh challenge coins... well, as long as you didn't turn them over. Ha ha.

Legeros - 11/13/10 - 17:57

Ha! You gotta keep up Mike – the new patch has been out now for about 2 years now! <http://www.stonyhillfire.org/media/shfd> .. Oh, BTW our "old" patch was patterned after Burlington FD, NC (the same department that RFD copied when Pickard came to town).

A.C. Rich - 11/13/10 - 18:24

Speaking of, what was the RFD patch prior to the Pickard years?

JH - 11/13/10 - 21:28

To my knowledge, there was no RFD patch. Uniforms consisted of the EMT patch on one side and none on the other. Interesting history for Mike to to confirm.

A.C. Rich - 11/14/10 - 10:58

Yes, no patch was present prior to Pickard.

Legeros - 11/14/10 - 10:59

Just got the new Our Designs catalog in the mail, and they have challenge coins that you can design and buy in bulk for your departments. I had mentioned this as an idea for the RFD 100th Anniversary in 2012. A challenge coin, or maybe even a 100th anniversary patch design.

A.S. Meier - 11/14/10 - 12:14

I'd be interested in one of the St. 4 coins also. I also found some good reading on challenge coins here: <http://www.challengecoinsdirect.com>

G. Hernandez - 11/14/10 - 22:35

@ A.S.; a 100 year patch is an awesome idea!!

Silver - 11/15/10 - 00:07

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Durant Road EMS Station Opened Today

11/08/10 200 W, 2 I - + 6 - 6

[Wake County EMS](#) opened the Durant Road EMS station today. Located at 10000 Durant Road, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held this morning. The station is the new permanent home for EMS 15, which had been based at nearby Raleigh Fire Station 22 for several years. Additional, EMS 33 will be stationed at Durant Road at night, relocated from Stony Hill Fire Station 1.

As [this press release](#) notes, construction contracts for the facility were approved by the Board of Commissioners in November 2009. The EMS station is part of the [North Wake Landfill Post Closure Master Plan](#), a program to add public-use and public-protection facilities to the 260-acre property. That plan has involved city, county, state, and citizen committee participants.

~~Next week~~ On December 1, officials cut the ribbon on a joint Wake County EMS and Garner Fire Department station in southeastern Wake County. Guess it's time to update our list of EMS units, [as previously blogged](#). And maybe it's time for a list of present and past EMS facilities, and years opened/operated. Any takers? Photos from today's ceremony are forthcoming from Legeros (below) and Lee.



Congratulations to WCEMS!

A.C. Rich - 11/09/10 - 01:21

great looking station!

charlie - 11/09/10 - 07:37

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preferred)

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Bonfire Wanted

11/09/10 54 W - + 9 - 5

Or really, any sort of large fire. Must be at night. Wanted for photography experiment, to test and document different camera settings. The results should reveal some of the best ways to photograph fires at night. Any takers? Controlled ambient light is a bonus, though perhaps we'll start small. Thanks in advance.

why don't you wait until duke basketball fans have a bonfire on campus.

charlie - 11/10/10 - 02:32

good idea Charlie....they'll play UNC soon and win, you can get all sizes of bonfires then....

Brad - 11/15/10 - 14:39

Name: (real name preferred)

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Yes

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Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - Fire Commission Meeting « Bonfire Wanted » This Morning's Two Al... Notice, November 18

Fire Commission Meeting Notice, November 18

11/09/10 48 W - + 6 - 6

The next meeting of the Wake County Fire Commission is November 18. That's next Thursday. Not this Thursday, but next Thursday. Got that? Agenda and handouts forthcoming as available:

- Thursday, November 18, 2010
- 7:00 p.m.
- Wake County EMS Training Facility
- Commons Building, Lower Level, [4011 Cary Drive](#).

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

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This Morning's Two Alarms / Shanda Drive

11/09/10 135 W, 2 I - + 5 - 3

Two-alarms at [6317 Shanda Drive](#). Engine 15 arriving with heavy fire showing from the roof of a one-story wood-frame apartment clubhouse building. Built 1979, with 1,809 square-feet. Defensive operations, with Ladder 1 operating overhead. Ladder 5 at the read on street-side. Two hydrants as well as command and rehab on Shanda Drive. Dispatched 4:45 p.m. Controlled 5:16 p.m. Units on scene included E15, E4, E9, E18, E16, E19, E22, L1, L5, R1, R3, B1, B2, B4, C10, C20, C40, C4, A1, EMS 12_, EMS 11, D1, T1. Who was left? "B" shift was working. [See photos from Legeros](#), such as these two. Guess the first one's interchangeable with just about any other recent major apartment fire. Second shot's a little more original.



EMS units on scene: EMS 3, EMS 5, EMS 11, EMS 121, District 4, District 1, Medic 92, Truck 1

doc1490 - 11/10/10 - 19:15

Newell Fire Department in Mecklenburg County Closing in 2011

11/09/10 248 W, 1 I - + 6 - 3

Found by FireNews, the *Charlotte Observer* reported Saturday that the Board of Directors of the [Newell Fire Department](#) in Mecklenburg County decided in September to terminate its contract with the county effective June 30, 2011. They are currently protecting 1,250 homes and businesses.

The Newell fire district spans only 2.5 square miles. Their district has shrank over time, due to annexations. Notes the Chief, "We actually have to drive past a Charlotte fire station every time we go on a call." There are nearly 20 other independent fire departments also serving in Mecklenburg County, notes the article. [Read the story.](#)

[We've blogged before](#) about the history of Charlotte annexations, and the changes in rural fire service in Mecklenburg County. Some of the now-gone private departments: Carmel FD, Derita FD, Hickory Grove FD, Moores Chapel FD, Oakhurst FD, Pinoca FD, Route No. 10 FD, Sharon FD, Statesville Road FD, Wilkinson Boulevard FD, and Woodlawn FD.

Here's a [county map from 1959](#) that we blogged about, as well as a [history of Wilkinson Boulevard](#), also from a prior post. [Read about those departments](#), or see photos of [old stations still standing](#).

How does this history relate to Wake County? That one's easy. The private departments here will likely be following the same historical roads paved in Charlotte, as well as the state's other expanding cities. Fayetteville. Greensboro. Wilmington. Etcetera. More later on Newell FD, and their many decades of history.



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 No

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Freedom of Speech and Facebook

11/09/10 169 W - + 8 - 6

Heard about this? Company fires worker for criticizing supervisors in Facebook posting. National Labor Relations Board says that's illegal. And it happens to be an ambulance company. *The New York Times* [had this story yesterday](#), as did many other outlets.

What are implications for the fire service, and fire service managers grappling with social media policies? [Dave Statter's already there](#), weighing some initial thoughts as well as linking to the *Times* story.

It also makes Mr. Blogger think about this [Cary News story from last week](#), where the Cary chapter of the North Carolina Police Benevolent Association has questioned the town's internal media policy. That is, the rules for town employees with regard to contact with the media.

Internal media policies are old hat, as are consequence for speaking out about one's employer. What's new are the increasing communication channels at people's fingertips. It sure is easier than ever to raise your voice, speak out on this, or be cited for that. Interesting times.

...and posting stuff on a certain local fire service blog... Hey, it's not asking too much, but looking through my good ole rose colored glasses, we would hope that folks would keep social media activities positive, or at a minimum "constructively critical" (if a negativity exists), yet not be derogatory. Vent negativeness in person, not online. Albeit, Face Book is especially entertaining when people post their personal lives on there!

A.C. Rich - 11/09/10 - 22:35

"Freedom of speech" does not give people the absolute right to tear a company down, through slander, that "gave them a job" publicly without possible consequence. Especially if the employer is following the law, safety guidelines and adhering to their policies that they make. There are protections in place to be able to discuss policys and working conditions with unions and coworkers and other laws to keep employers from abusing employees but damn where does it end. If i am an employer and I have an employee the PUBLICLY criticizes the company and company management in a negative way why would i want them. Employers have to have rights too! They give you a job!! I'm sure there are alot of people out there who would want a job right now. EVERYONE has things about their job or employer that they might not like or agree totally with but nothing is perfect. Social media is public its not like your venting to a co-worker in private, plus what you say is put in writing.

gen3fire - 11/10/10 - 12:25

...and NC does not recognize organized labor. We are "at will."

A.C. Rich - 11/11/10 - 16:51

This is a pretty good commentary on the issue here, <http://tinyurl.com/26cguay>

Basically, the question seems to be: does a social media channel like Facebook constitute a protected community of workers, for people speaking therein?

Legeros - 11/11/10 - 18:00

In my OPINION, and until defined by law or the courts, it is not a protected community. Like KC stated above, you are responsible for what you say, yet all too often it seems the 1st Amendment is twisted to benefit individual agendas. As I read, libel and/or offensive speech is not actually the intent of the 1st Amendment so it's a fine line for the courts to define – and there is A LOT of interpretation out there. So, where to draw the line??? I believe if an employee or member has a past of documented conduct related issues on the job or within the organization, it's an easy case for punitive action from the organization within their established policies. Even this is debatable. Maybe our local Juris Doctors can define more for us... I'm out of my league now. ...law.

A.C. Rich - 11/11/10 - 19:31

I'll whip out my JD and give some free (worth exactly what you paid for it) legal opinion. First, we have two different legal worlds in the fire service in Wake County – some firefighters work for a governmental entity, some work for private organizations. The rules are very different for

the two.

First, you've gotta remember what the Constitution and the Bill of Rights are all about. They are to protect citizens from actions of the GOVERNMENT – so it's virtually impossible for a private organization to "violate constitutional rights." Some of these rights we want to enforce against everybody, so there are new laws – like laws against discrimination in privately owned hotels and restaurants. Discriminate against somebody because of race or religion as a private organization, you don't violate "rights" you violate the statute.

On the private side, in an at-will state like NC, the agency pretty much wins, unless their action is found to be "against public policy" by a court. An employee talking about corruption, embezzlement, etc. would probably find some protection in the courts. The problem is that you can go broke asserting your case in court – lawyers who do that kind of stuff aren't cheap.

On the public side, courts have generally held that speech of public employees is protected, provided they are speaking on a "matter of public concern." For example, an employee who spoke out about how staffing changes would impact the ISO rating of the community would be protected. An employee who spread untrue rumors about somebody else would not, nor an employee who "ranted" about how he was treated badly by an officer. Those matters are typically "private concerns" not protected by the force of the government. The visual is this – if the "speech" is something that you would bring to the county commission, town council, etc., then it is probably protected. If it's just "sounding off" about private or internal matters, it's probably not.

Public or private, it's never protected to lie. But then, our parents all told us that anyway.....

Hope that helps

SkipK - 11/15/10 - 21:00

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Jay Leno's 1941 American LaFrance

11/10/10 142 W - + 7 - 0

From a reader, [here's a nifty segment from Jay Leno](#) about his 1941 American LaFrance 500 Series pumper. It originally served Warner Brothers on their studio lot, and then was given to the city of Burbank. The truck then landed (ha!) at the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport, and was last left at the end of a runway.

Jay talks a bit about the body construction and as well as the engine, which is a 12-cylinder, 256 HP monster. The 500 Series engines, he notes, were the first aerodynamically designed fire apparatus, and the first tested in wind tunnels. They also look sharp all get out. (Raleigh had a 1939 American LaFrance 500 Series tractor mated to its 1916 American LaFrance aerial ladder trailer.)

After restoration, Leno further modified the truck by removing the water tank, and adding a power-lift to the rear. The purpose? Transporting bikes!

How cool would it be to roll up into work on that! Awesome!!

GH - 11/10/10 - 19:35

Awesome video but Conan is still better ;-)

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 11/11/10 - 21:47

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

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Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

1964 Van Pelt/GMC

11/10/10 109 W, 1 I - + 5 - 10

Also from a reader, and also speaking of attractive antiques from the western United States, here's a vintage photo of a 1967 Van Pelt/GMC pumper in Larkspur, Colorado California. Kodachrome slide by user tterrace on the web site [Shorpy](#). Van Pelt was a west coast apparatus company in business from 1925 to 1987, and became the largest apparatus builder west of the Rockies. Or so says Google, in a summary of Chuck Madderom's book *Van Pelt Fire Apparatus - 1925-1987 Photo Archive*. That's one of [Iconografix's](#) any excellent photo archives books. They publish them about all sorts of transportation topics. Click to see larger version:

*Shorpy photo*

Larkspur, California actually.

tterrace ([Email](#)) - 05/29/11 - 16:17

It's definitely a beauty. This is actually Larkspur, California, though. Larkspur is in Marin County, across the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco.

Steve ([Email](#)) - 01/25/14 - 15:48

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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Social Media as 911 Alternative

11/11/10 191 W - + 6 - 5

Those pesky social media channels are also being used as an alternative to dialing 911, finds an American Red Cross survey as reported in [this Firehouse.com news article](#). In addition the popular phone call of "I've fallen and can't get up," you can transmit your distress via Facebook or Twitter. Or at least that's believed as appropriate or effective by some folks.

The Red Cross surveyed 1,058 adults in an online survey, and one in five said they'd utilize social media if they can't reach the telephone. Some would ask others to ask for help; others would touch the responders directly. Send a tweet to the emergency agency, post a request for help on the agency's Facebook page.

Key quote: "There's an expectation in the public that responders are monitoring social media and will respond to requests for help." [Read the story to learn more](#), or see [this Red Cross press release](#) with a few slides. Perhaps our friends in emergency communications can add perspective to our ever-evolving channels of transmission.

And now, for that now-classic line in the now-classic television commercial...

From a professional perspective, the numbers associated with the Red Cross study are troubling. One of the more disturbing aspects is the number of respondents who thought that public safety agencies should be monitoring their web sites as a means of notification of incidents. A case in CT got a lot of publicity earlier this year when an injured cyclist used social media to notify her friends nationwide to call for an ambulance. In this case everything worked out for the best. However, the results may not always be so positive; especially if information is corrupted during the relay, or if the telephone number for the appropriate response agency can't be quickly located. In the future, Next Generation 9-1-1 will allow alternate means of 9-1-1 access; especially texting. However, right now there are lots of unanswered questions regarding this functionality. While it's great for the hearing impaired, there's currently no verification of who is calling or where they are calling from. Both are giant steps backward. Additionally, texting takes time, and commonly used txt abbreviations can muddy the waters. Call takers don't get any background audible clues (fighting, gun shots, smoke detector sounding) and you can't read intent and/or emotion from the written word. Most industry folks I know agree that the development and use of alternate means of access will actually slow processing times and require additional personnel. All of these technologies (and more) will eventually make their way into every corner of our lives – 9-1-1 included. A jumpstart of sorts came in October when the President signed The Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility

Act of 2010 into law. One entire section of this act deals with new methods of access to public safety.

RWECC - 11/12/10 - 09:40

Good info, RWECC. The public has a LOT of expectations that, well, are not reasonable.

“There’s an expectation in the public that responders are monitoring social media and will respond to requests for help.”

There are a lot more expectations than that. They expect the 9-1-1 call taker to just be able to flash up a picture of their house, with a Google map (or the like) straight to it. They expect that we can do the same thing with the computers in our trucks. They think that just because all of that stuff is on CSI or NCIS, we must have it too.

DJ - 11/13/10 - 08:10

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

The Liabilities of Adding Exercise Equipment

11/12/10 154 W - + 7 - 5

[Caught this story from on firehouse.com](#), by way of the *Journal-Register* in Medina, N.Y. The village fire department is receiving a federal grant. They've received them in the past, and they've used them to purchase radios, PPE, and apparatus. This year, they've targeted \$70,000 of the awarded funds to purchase physical fitness equipment. That's raised red flags with village officials, who see a liability of having exercise equipment on village property. If someone is working out, there's a worker's compensation liability as well as one that requires the village to pay the difference in lost salary. They cite an amount of \$1 million over 30 years that they could also have to pay, if someone were injured. What's your experience with similar situations? What's the other side of the equation look like, the benefits and cost savings from implementing fitness programs and using exercise equipment? Submitted for your discussion.

Well, had they considered that someone could get hurt in some fashion responding to some type of call? That in itself is a worker's comp liability, so by their logic maybe they shouldn't have a fire department. They obviously have budget concerns but there will always be worker's comp liability when people are on the clock regardless of what they are doing. Do they consider repetitive motion injuries or carpal tunnel syndrome be some possible issues for them? I think they are being short sighted. The positives for a fitness program are very well established and not only in the fire service. I'm quite sure there are wasted funds elsewhere in the budget which could be reallocated, but maybe they are some official's pet project...who knows.

BC - 11/12/10 - 14:10

The rationale is something like this- responding to calls is necessary and there is an 'expectation' that we may get hurt doing this. Just like a firefighter may get hurt actually fighting fire. But exercise equipment? That is preventable. If we don't allow the equipment, then that risk is eliminated. I know, sounds silly, but I have heard that from 'above' in some places.

DJ - 11/13/10 - 08:14

Typical American thinking these days, more worried about liability than health. What about the increasing numbers of responder heart attacks and deaths in the station or soon after getting home? Physical fitness is a necessary part of the job.

charlie3 - 11/13/10 - 09:48

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

Students and Responders Recognized For Saving Student's Life

11/13/10 197 W, 1 I - + 6 - 6

In a ceremony yesterday at the Talley Student Center at North Carolina State University, students and responders were recognized for saving another student's life on September 2. Spencer Shell went jogging early that evening, and was about a mile from home when he collapsed on Dan Allen Drive. He was witnessed by Jon Smetana, who saw Shell collapse and roll down a hill onto Harris Field. Robert Olson arrived within seconds, and Kate Gilbertson raced over. Shell had no pulse, and was not breathing. Smetana began chest compressions, and Olson worked on rescue breathing.

Additional students arrived to assist, including a part-time firefighter who also helped with administering CPR. Patient care was soon taken over by arriving responders from the Raleigh Fire Department, Wake County EMS, and Cary EMS. Shell spent 15 days in the hospital and received a defibrillator implant. He's recovering well. The 17 people who helped save his life were recognized yesterday in the aforementioned ceremony. Read that story in this [NCSU faculty and staff bulletin](#), as well as nice story in [this morning's News & Observer](#). Also see photos from [Lee Wilson from the ceremony](#).

*Lee Wilson photo*

Great job guys!

It just goes to show that while it may take a village to raise an idiot, it also can take a village to save one precious life. That's why I'm in the fire service.

Duda - 11/14/10 - 00:23

I was there that day and it really took all responders.

What an amazing outcome!

Tim Martin ran the code and did exceptional.

Chief Hammerstein responded soon after to provide leadership and remind all to "slow down." I think I remember hearing him about three or four times simply say, "let's slow down."

This was one of the most well run codes I have ever been a part of.

Witnessed - 11/14/10 - 00:38

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Google Alerts

11/13/10 90 W - + 9 - 4

We've mentioned these before. [Google Alerts](#). Great way to learn about new content on the web. Free service, sends e-mail notifications. That's how Mr. Blogger learns of news stories, press releases, and another bits of information that mention "Raleigh fire." Those are my keywords. Well, plus another alert on the keyword "Legeros." Of course. Keeps me abreast on occasional family stuff, like my sculpture cousin Nick in Minneapolis. And lets me see the spread of self-generated content as it propagates the big, bad web.

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Why Many Police Departments Use Rotation Wreckers

11/13/10 62 W, 1 I - + 9 - 2

From a reader, here's a clip from the Discovery Channel television series *Wreck Chasers*. Tow trucks operators racing to be the first on scene at a reported vehicle accident Philly. And while we're on the subject, who has stories share of local services, before the days of rotation wreckers in Raleigh? Click to watch:



It is a wonder that they do not create most of the accidents up there. Imagine 6 wreckers showing up trying to tow 1 car, insane! No wonder most went to rotation.

2redline - 11/13/10 - 19:51

I remember getting rotation wreckers when I was a cop in Washington (NC). With all the wrecker services in Beaufort Co., I can just see if it had been a free-for-all like in Philly. It *is a wonder they don't create more trouble than the take care of."

Duda - 11/14/10 - 08:42

And even with rotations, it gets a little crazy sometimes. We've actually had some wreckers hear the call for a rotation on the scanner, and then show up acting like they were the rotation wrecker. If you're busy with other aspects of the wreck scene, that could easily slip past you.

rfburns - 11/14/10 - 09:39

@rfburns I have actually heard that happen a few times over the RPD LE OPS/TAC TGs. One officer to another "Did you call for another rotation?" Second LEO: "No". First LEO: "Why the heck do we have 4 Tows on scene?" :-) I happens more than people think even with rotation wreckers. Tow truck drivers are just as vicious here as they are in Philly.

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 11/14/10 - 19:54

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Firefighters Struck, One Killed on I-20 in Columbia, SC

11/14/10 264 W, 1 I - + 6 - 7

Yesterday afternoon, two Columbia Fire Department firefighters were struck by a vehicle while fighting a brush fire on Interstate 20. Firefighter Larry Irvan, 30, is in critical but stable condition as of last night. The second firefighter died last night, a young man whose name was being withheld by the fire department out of respect for the family, as reported in [this story from The State](#). He was original reported as deceased on the scene, and has been identified by name on other sites. (Meta-conversation alert on that aspect of the story.)

The accident occurred about 2:15 p.m. The two firefighters were operating in the media of I-20 near mile marker 81. Three pieces of fire apparatus were on scene and parked on the inside lane on the eastbound side. A vehicle approaching in the westbound lane struck the firefighters. [This WLTX story reports](#) that that vehicle was struck by a second vehicle, prior to striking the firefighters. They were airlifted to Palmetto Richland hospital.

Additional details are certainly forthcoming, as news reporting is always a bit slower on Saturday and Sunday, at least in the Carolinas. See other coverage and conversation at: [South Carolina on Fire](#) and [Dave Statter](#).

The Columbia Fire Department serves both the capital of South Carolina and a 660 square-mile area of Richland County. [As their web site notes](#), they have 515 active firefighters, 392 of which are career firefighters. They have 32 stations, about half of which are "volunteer" stations. They are cited as Columbia-Richland Fire Department in places.



WLTX/Sam Quiller photo

Firefighter Close Calls has posted funeral arrangements for Firefighter Chance Zobel:

Visitation for Firefighter Chance Zobel on Tuesday evening at Dunbar Funeral Home located at 7600 Woodrow Street in Irmo, SC 29063. The first visitation is from 6:00pm – 8:00pm and is open to everyone. Please wear your Class A uniform if possible.

The funeral will be held on Wednesday at Shandon Baptist Church located at 5250 Forest Drive in Columbia SC, 29206. The Funeral will start at 1:00pm. Class A uniform is the preferred dress.

The internment will follow immediately after the funeral service at Shady Grove United Methodist Church located at 1918 Shady Grover Road in Irmo, SC 29063.

Legeros - 11/16/10 - 07:27

Firefighter Zobel was identified in a fire department press conference on Sunday. He had been a member of the fire department for three years, and had graduated from the rookie academy in February. The 23 year-old rookie a member of Engine 4, along with Larry Irvin, who was injured on Saturday. He is survived by his parents, a brother, and a fiancée. Here's a WSIT story about him, <http://www.wistv.com/Global/story.asp?S=..>, as well as his obituary, <http://www.wistv.com/Global/story.asp?S=..>.

Legeros - 11/16/10 - 07:34

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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The Fire Museum Network

11/14/10 573 W, 8 I - + 6 - 4

On Halloween weekend, a unique meeting of fire service enthusiasts was convened in Lutherville, Maryland. That's an unincorporated community just north of Baltimore, and one-half of the Lutherville-Timonium census district. It's also the reason Lutherville might be missing as a destination when entered by name into your GPS.

Timonium is the location of the Maryland State Fairgrounds, and they hosted a haunted house that particular Friday and Saturday night. We saw the signs. A high-speed rail line runs through there, too. In case you were wondering about rail access. Lutherville, on the other hand, might be a bit more familiar as the location of the [Maryland Fire Museum](#).

That place is a piece of fire apparatus heaven, with dozens of antique rigs on display and including two, count 'em two, water towers. Hand engines, steam engines, triple combinations, hand-drawn hose reels, horse-drawn ladder trucks, they've got a bit of everything.

The museum was the host of this year's [Fire Museum Network](#) annual seminar. The four-day event brought together museum operators, aspiring museum-ers, historical society members, private collection owners, and other individuals interested in our favorite type of specialty museum.



Some 80 attendees were there. By my count, they hailed from 21 states as well as the United Kingdom. They represented organizations of varying size and scope, from the fledgling [Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society](#) (hello!) to the long-established Fireman's Hall Museum of Philadelphia. Statewide fire museums were present from Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, and Texas. And maybe one or two others.

We split our time between the museum and a nearby hotel. Saturday was a full day of workshops, on topics including museum lighting, archives and collection care, and interpreting the histories and presenting the stories of a fire museum's collection. Yours Truly also took a few pictures, since he and his cameras were there already. [See more workshop shots.](#)



The attendees and speakers were exceptionally friendly, the workshops were immensely informative, and the museum-based activities were absolutely enjoyable. Notable was Lantern Night on Saturday night at the Maryland Fire Museum. Candles. Dimmed lights. People in period costumes.

Two telegraph stations were working, with period-dressed telegraphers wiring messages to each other. Others demonstrated the museum's working electric-telegraph fire alarm system. And we're talkin' the full monty. Alarm box signal sent to working dispatch center and retransmitted to working watch desk. [See pictures from Lantern night](#), plus two sets of photos taken earlier at the museum: [Set #1](#) and [Set #2](#).



There were other museum-based events, but which were skipped by Yours Truly. Bus tour on Sunday to fire museums in Philadelphia and Harrisburg. Bus tours on Monday, to fire museums in Alexandria, Baltimore, and Washington D.C. [Here are photos of all five museum](#), taken on earlier dates by myself.

The Fire Museum Network began as a program at the International Association of Fire Chief's annual convention. Their first meeting was in 1989 in Indianapolis. They organized as their own organization in 2004-2005, and held their first annual meeting in Indianapolis in 2005. Since then they've met in Columbus (OH), Denver, Aurora (IL), Phoenix, and this year outside Baltimore. Next year, they'll meet outside Detroit, with the Michigan Fire Museum in Ypsilanti hosting.

Take a visit to the [Fire Museum Network web site](#). Not only is there good stuff on the web site itself, but breadth of resources and a wide network of friendly people behind the scenes.

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Fire Commission Meeting Agenda & Documents, Nov 18

11/15/10 149 W - + 3 - 5

[Here's the agenda and related documents](#) for this week's Wake County Fire Commission Meeting on Thursday, November 18, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., at Wake County EMS Training Facility, at the lower level of the Commons Building, 4011 Carya Drive.

Agenda

- Call meeting to order
 - Invocation
 - Roll of Members Present
 - Approval of Agenda
- Minutes
 - Adoption of Minutes for September 23rd, 2010, Regular Meeting
- Regular Agenda
 - Consider Approval of Calendar Year 2011 Meeting Dates
 - Consider Approval of Wake County Post Incident Review Training Program
 - Facility Committee
- 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 January 20th, 2011.

Documents

Copies placed in <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog/wcfc/2010-09>

1. Agenda
2. Draft minutes of last meeting
3. Wake County Post Incident Review Training Program information
4. Meeting schedule for 2011
5. Financial report

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Raleigh's 1989 Pierce Arrow Pumper For Sale

11/15/10 145 W, 1 I - + 9 - 5

Step right up and place your bid on a genuine city of Raleigh fire engine. Old Engine 9 is being [auctioned on GovDeals.com](#). The 1989 Pierce Arrow pumper was one of three delivered that year. The others were assigned to Engine 1 and Engine 13. They were the first Pierce pumpers for the city, and the last engines delivered with open jump seats. 'Twas about a year later that Yours Truly fought his first fire while riding that truck, while filling in at Station 9. Duplex, Applewood Lane, one fatality. The truck subsequently served as Engine 18 and entered the reserve fleet in 2005. It was last designated Engine 124. The two others were also recently removed from the reserve fleet, and are assigned to the training center. They're designated Training 1 and Training 2. [Read more apparatus histories](#). Happy bidding.



this truck would probably be a good fit for a rural fire department that can not afford to purchase a new truck.

charlie - 11/16/10 - 14:08

Correction. This is old Engine 13, not old Engine 9. Have some double-crossed VIN numbers in my records. This truck served as E13, E6, E26, E104, and E122.

Cost \$200,000 new. Sold for \$5,461.05.

Legeros - 11/28/10 - 17:34

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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Mutual Aid to Zebulon, 1996

11/15/10 69 W - + 5 - 6

Found during random reading of Raleigh Fire Department log books, here's an interesting entry and one that references a bit of eastern Wake County history. Readers who remember, please reconstruct the events of that late afternoon and early evening. Maybe we can dig out some photos as well.

4-15-96

2153

E13 10-7

Special assign.

Request for service - Zebulon Fire Dept mutual aid for tornado

Two tornados travel through Zebulon on afternoon of 4/15/1996. The first one takes out part of Westside Mobile Home Park, a car lot, and part of the Wedgewood neighborhood. The second tornado destroys another part of Town including a building at Zebulon Middle School. Multiple fire departments responded to assist, including RFD Engine 13. We'll attempt to locate photos from the day and days following.

Zeb 101 - 11/15/10 - 22:30

I believe Fairgrounds and YRAC were involved in that assistance, as I've seen certificates of appreciation for the incident in our (WWFR) things.

Duda - 11/16/10 - 09:13

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Yesterday's Motel Fire in Durham

11/16/10 91 W, 1 I - + 6 - 5

[The Durham Herald](#) has published a couple photos of yesterday's fire at The Budget Inn at 2101 Holloway Street in Durham. Four rooms suffered fire damage, two on each of the building's two stories. The blaze apparently started in a first-floor room, and spread upward to the second floor, and into the attic. It was reported at 4:45 p.m., and controlled in about 20 minutes. The wide shot is below, see the story for a shot of the crews on the roof.



Julian Harrison / Durham Herald photo

I really wish Julian would put together a Flickr site or Facebook page. He has so many pics of Durham's Bravest catching work, it would be awesome to have somewhere to share them. Heck, copyright the pics and offer them for sale on the site.

Silver - 11/16/10 - 11:17

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Caption This Photo

11/17/10 34 W, 1 I - + 5 - 5

Resident watches as fan is started after kitchen fire on Sawyer Road. Engine 3 arriving at a one-story apartment building. Quickly controlled. That's Ladder 4 leading the fan club. [Click to enlarge:](#)



"Will you quiet that down, Roseanne is on!"

K? - 11/18/10 - 01:33

"Funny, they usually show up in police officer outfits swinging little billy clubs. And it's not even my birthday!"

Duda - 11/18/10 - 10:16

Don't you have something better to do, some people are trying to sleep!

2redline - 11/18/10 - 10:19

"Thought I felt a draft"...

Silver - 11/18/10 - 14:32

Is there a fire? Number one question I had when I was on E1 and E13

Rob Mitchell - 11/19/10 - 15:50

Hey man!!! When you get done over there? Can I get some pocket change off you? I need a drink!!!

dc - 11/23/10 - 21:28

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Caption This Photo #2

11/17/10 47 W, 1 I - + 5 - 6

Curious tractor-trailer accident in the 4000 block of Poole Road this afternoon. Trailer loaded with bales of shredded paper that buckled while in motion. Now that's heavy. John Rottet took the photo for [this News & Observer story](#).



John Rottet/News & Observer photo

"Space-saving collapsible trailer. Patent pending."

Duda - 11/18/10 - 10:14

You ought to see what's left of the wall he backed up through, 40mph in reverse is pretty good!

2redline - 11/18/10 - 10:21

"Now that's heavy".....weight has nothing to do with it! Marty and Doc Brown...

Biff - 11/18/10 - 17:16

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - Showing Smoke in « Caption This Photo #2... » Cary Firefighters Gra... Oak Lawn, IL

Showing Smoke in Oak Lawn, IL

11/18/10 58 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

Here's your smoke shot for today, [from this Firegeezer report](#) about a strip mall fire in Oak Law, IL. First units arrived within three minutes. Controlled after an hour. Some 20 (!) area fire departments on scene. Photo by Hank Sajovic from ChicagoAreaFire.com. [See more from him.](#)



Hank Sajovic/ChicagoAreaFire.com

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Cary Firefighters Graduate Friday

11/18/10 154 W, 1 I - + 15 - 5

In a ceremony tomorrow night, Friday, November 19, at Council Chambers at the Cary Town Hall, the [Cary Fire Department](#) celebrates the graduation of Fire Academy #16. The event starts at 7:00 p.m. The town hall is located at 316 N. Academy Street.

The 16 recruits started their 18-week academy on July 6. In a first for the fire department, all of the recruits were already certified as firefighters in the State of North Carolina. This resulted in a shorter academy by about five weeks. In fact, the recruits have already been on shift for a couple cycles.

Their classroom training was conducted at Fire Station 7, with practical exercises at a variety of locations including the Wake County Fire Training Center. They're pictured below during air ambulance training in August with WakeMed. The recruits were hired to fill existing vacancies.

Congratulations to the new firefighters. Good luck in your careers! Click to enlarge:



Great shots of the graduation ceremony. And congratulations to the class, especially Sean J. Cather (Smiley) from Western Wake Fire Rescue. I had the pleasure of joining just before Sean came along and have had the fortune of seeing him grow in his role in the fire service. I'm sure he will be as much of an asset to Cary as he is as Western Wake.

Congratulations, class!

Duda - 11/20/10 - 22:27

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Garner Fire Departments Names New Chief

11/18/10 71 W, 1 I - + 5 - 4

As [this News 14 story](#) reports, [Garner Fire Department](#) Deputy Chief Matthew Poole has been named the new Fire Chief. He was appointed by the Board of the Directors on November 17, and had been serving as interim Fire Chief since June. Also announced is the appointment of Capt. Tim Herman as Deputy Chief. Congratulations to both!



Congratulations to Chief Poole and Chief Herman!

A.C. Rich - 11/18/10 - 21:01

Just seems like yesterday Poole and I were in the same electronics class at (then) Garner Senior High School. Congrats Chief Poole! You deserve the title after all of your years of hard work. Congrats also to Deputy Chief Herman!

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 11/18/10 - 21:20

Congratulations Matt!

CH100 - 11/19/10 - 03:41

Here's a longer story from the Garner News about the appointments, http://www.garnernews.net/view/full_stor..

Legeros - 11/19/10 - 07:47

Congrats Chief...Dewey must be proud!! Fresh minds and young blood taking the helm, surely some good things will take place at the GFD!!

Silver - 11/19/10 - 12:16

Congrats Chiefs, fellow Wilson Tech Grads!

J.Boggs - 11/26/10 - 12:11

Garner Fire Department Roster, 1967

11/19/10 199 W, 1 I - + 4 - 5

For your Friday history fix, let's go back in time to the [Garner Fire Department of the late 1960s](#). The fire station is located at 110 Pearl Street. Apparatus includes three engines, a tanker, a brush engine, and a Civil Defense-lettered utility truck. They answer around 150 calls a year. The department has two sections, one group of firefighters that answers calls inside the town. The second responds to the rural area. And we're still about a decade away from the opening of their second station.

Here's the roster for that year. Quite a few familiar names, including a number of former and even current Wake County fire chiefs! Not to mention veterans of all ranks. Notable is Capt. B. R. Poole Jr. He was also Fire Chief both in prior and later years, and is the grandfather of the newly appointed Fire Chief Matt Poole. The name in the upper right corner, Col. Throne, was Civil Defense director of the time. Believe that agency oversaw all rural departments at that time. Nope, no shortage of fire history in these parts! Document source is likely from old fireman's association records. Click **once or twice** to enlarge:



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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Old Moore County Fire Engine

11/20/10 190 W, 1 I - + 9 - 3

Lee Wilson has found this old Ford fire engine parked off Wade Avenue. It's labelled Moore County Fire Department and also has V.F.D. on the hood. Should we presume the truck served Vass Fire Department? The model year might be late 1950s or early 1960s. Our readers should know that answer, at least.

If the truck served in Moore County in North Carolina, then its history might go something like this: Moore County begins providing rural protection to rural residents in the above era. Perhaps they organize a county-based fire department, or maybe just purchase one or more trucks. Which are provided to municipal or existing fire departments, such as Vass FD. Hence the hood lettering for V.F.D.

That's pretty speculative. Maybe our readers know. Here's a [history of the Vass FD](#), which merged into Circle V Fire Department, and which is presently called Cypress Pointe Fire Department. Got that? [See a couple more photos from Lee](#). Maybe Mr. Blogger can find the truck and see if a registration plate indicates more. Or, Moore.



Lee Wilson photo

The truck is presently parked at 600 Wade Avenue. It's a Ford 700 Series, with a Barton-American body. The doors were once lettered Moore County _____ Fire Dept. The hood had four letters originally. The first letter is covered, the second letter looks like it was changed to a "V". My original theories above are perhaps hogwash. Maybe the truck is from one of the out-of-state Moore County Fire Departments that Google finds. ??

Legeros - 11/20/10 - 11:37

Looking at the grill work, it looks to be a 1964. 1965 and 1966 had the turn signals over the headlights. 1962 had the F O R D logo on the grill, spelled out (I believe), and 1963 had a more open grill. There would also be differences in the fender medallion from year to year. The 'V' in the red paint on the door is classic Barton-American from the period.

DJ - 11/20/10 - 19:09

Request from a reader. Does anyone know where this truck is today? The truck did **not** belong to Vass FD, and they're checking to see if it belonged to Aberdeen FD.

Legeros - 03/04/11 - 08:25

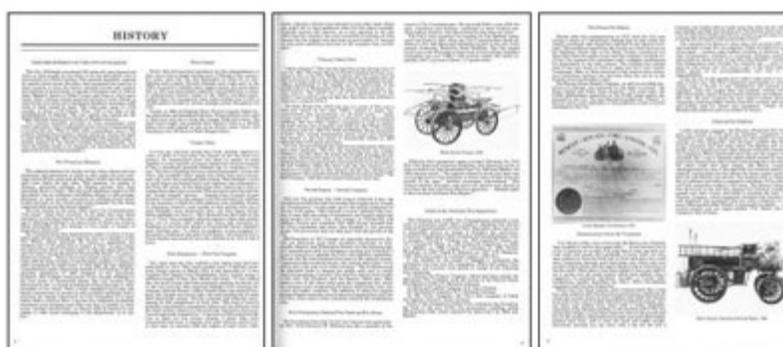
Raleigh Fire Department History, 1984

11/20/10 247 W, 1 I - + 3 - 3

For your further historical enjoyment, here's an annotated [Raleigh Fire Department history from 1984](#). The text originally appeared in the fire department's first yearbook.¹ That 96-page hardcover book, long out of print, included a 13-page text history. The author was Captain B. T. Fowler, who used several sources including research by Wake County historian Elizabeth Reid Murray.²

The history represented the best information available at the time. Ms. Murray's research continued into the 2000s, and her exhaustive collection of notes is now available at Olivia Raney Local History Library.³ In recent years, Historian Mike Legeros (that's me!) researched her research on the history of the Raleigh Fire Department.

Hence the annotations which have been **added in yellow** to 1984 text. Their purpose is to correct errors, and provide additional context or information. Further review may result in further changes. Ditto for subsequent research in subsequent years. That's the beauty of history. You're always learning more about what happened. [Learn more history](#).



¹Publisher Taylor Publishing. Limited print run. Produced by a committee of firefighters. One copy is available at the North Carolina State Archives reading room. Others are floating around various fire stations.

²As this [History of Histories](#) notes, Ms. Murray had written prior histories of the fire department, including a five-page history for a [fire protection report in 1970](#).

³And does copyright come into play here? Don't believe so, at least for this particular book. More later.

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

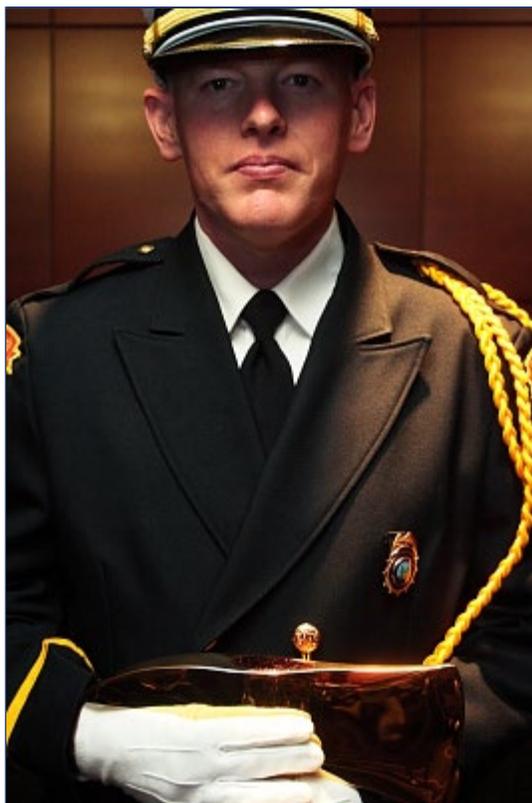
Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an

Honor Guard

11/20/10 125 W, 1 I - + 5 - 5

Unidentified Cary Fire Department Honor Guard member as photographed at last night's graduation ceremony at the Town Hall. [See prior posting](#) about the recruit class. Picture was made using Canon Digital Rebel XT at second-highest ISO setting (800) and with external flash at -2/3 exposure compensation. And with that clear plastic tip jar, er, LightSphere as diffuser.

Let's see, other camera settings: Program AE shooting mode, 1/60 shutter speed, 4.0 aperture value, 32mm focal length, Canon RAW file format. For post-production using Canon Digital Photo Professional, it's +.83 brightness adjustment, custom white balance, Faithful picture style, +3 contrast, +3 color saturation, and +10 sharpness. Output to JPEG format. More later. Event photos, and particularly indoor event photos, always take longer to process. Each shot is dissimilar. Click to enlarge:



I think it is James Garris

Apex Batt Chief - 11/20/10 - 20:05

I think Scooter's right.

DJ - 11/20/10 - 21:07

Its James, he helped out at Wake Tech with my EMT-Basic

AJS - 11/22/10 - 15:18

Matchbox Hazard Squad

11/20/10 52 W, 1 I - + 9 - 4

Just in time for holiday shopping is a new tooling in the Matchbox 1-75 range. Called the Hazard Squad, it's a generic custom-cab heavy rescue. A couple red versions have been released, as well as one lime-yellow in a five pack. Pretty good casting detail. Click to enlarge:



Got that. It's a Pierce Quantum.

Oh, and that was WWP196 and R295 (canceled en route) on the I40 bus wreck yesterday.

Duda - 11/20/10 - 22:21

Look closely, not a Pierce. Not licensed. Generic design.

Legeros - 11/20/10 - 22:27

True that, but it's just different enough not to violate copyright laws. It's pretty darn close in comparison to my Quantum ladder. And along with the yellow and black Dash engine of the same scale, is apparently the most common of the offerings. Have you gotten your black-over-red cab B. Comthax County Velocity aerial? I happened upon one at Tarzhay a couple weeks ago.

Duda - 11/20/10 - 22:55

And speaking of what looks like a rescue truck, Pumpkin Center FD (the one in Lincolnton, not Jacksonville) was the lucky bidder for (former) Garner Rescue 881. I happened to see it westbound on I40 between Greensboro and Winston, which leads me to believe they took delivery yesterday.

Duda - 11/20/10 - 23:58

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

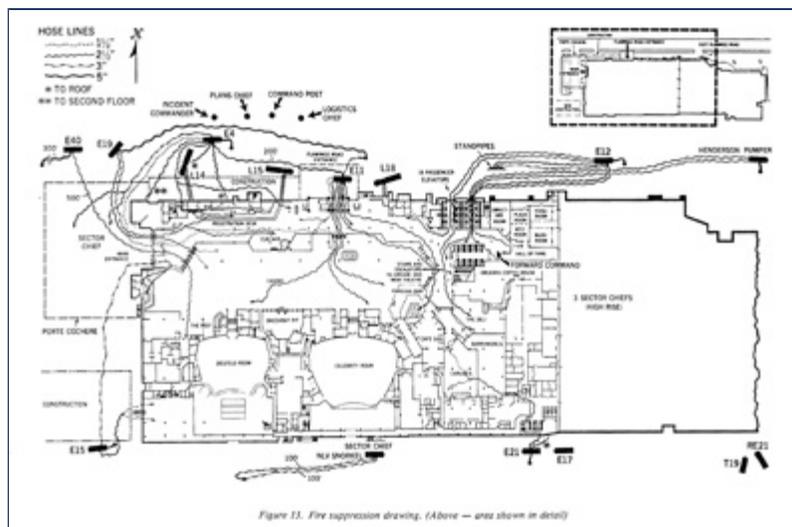
/ [Textile](#)

Remembering The MGM Grand Hotel Fire

11/21/10 447 W, 1 I - + 7 - 6

Today is the 30th anniversary of the MGM Grand hotel fire in Las Vegas that killed 85 people and injured 650 on November 12, 1980. Below are some stats, some reading material, and a NFPA-produced documentary about the fire:

Diagram (click to enlarge)



Videos (double-click for larger versions)

Statistics

- Second deadliest hotel fire in U.S. history.
- Casino/restaurant area with 450,000 square-feet.
- Plus 23-story high-rise hotel with about 2,083 guest rooms.
- Opened 1973, few sprinklers in building due to rule exemptions. Fire started in restaurant.

- Reported at 7:16 a.m.
- Fireball races through casino level within minutes.
- Crews are 40 feet into casino and retreat from building.
- Fire confined to casino level after about an hour.
- 544 firefighters on scene, including Clark County FD, Las Vegas FD, North Las Vegas FD, Henderson County FD, Boulder City FD
- From diagram above: 8 hydrants, 10+ engines, 4+ aerials, 29? hand lines, 4 sector chiefs, 1 forward command

- Some 5,000 people in hotel, with about 3,400 registered guests.
- Four hours before all guests were evacuated.
- Estimated 300 people were evacuated from the roof, with another 12 rescued from balconies by USAF helicopters.
- 20 helicopters had responded by 8:30 a.m., including nine USAF aircraft.

- 85 guests and hotel employees died. All but two located on the day of the fire. Documented locations were high-rise tower (61) and casino level (18).
- Of 61 victims found in high-rise, 25 in rooms, 22 in corridors, 9 in stairwells, and 5 in elevators. One person died after jumping or falling from tower. Other causes of deaths were burns (4) and smoke inhalation (80).
- 650 injured people were treated, transported, and seen by hospital personnel. Of those, 318 were admitted, and 282 were treated and evaluated in emergency rooms and released later that day.
- 14 rescue units from Clark County, Las Vegas, Henderson, and Boulder City. Another 17 ambulances from Mercy and American.

- Approximately 35 firefighters sought medical care during and after the fire. Total of 15 were hospitalized for periods from one day to two weeks, mainly due to effects of smoke inhalation. At least three firefighters received lengthy medical care.
- Estimated 200-300 firefighters experienced headaches, dizziness, and rhinitis for several days after, but did not seek medical care.

- Building cost \$300 to construct.
- Total of \$223 million in legal settlements.
- Lawsuits totaled 1,327 against 118 companies.

- Las Vegas Hilton burned on February 10, 1981
- Eight people died, 350 were injured.
- After second fire, sweeping fire safety changes enacted.

Links

- Clark County FD - [MGM Grand fire](#) (summary and investigation report, linked at bottom), [Las Vegas Hilton fire summary](#)
- Firehouse.com - [MGM Grand fire / Lessons From The Past](#)

- Las Vegas Review-Journal - [MGM Grand fire](#) (portal)
- NFPA reports - [MGM Grand fire](#), [Las Vegas Hilton fire](#)
- Statter911 - [MGM Grand fire anniversary today](#)
- Wikipedia - [MGM Grand fire](#), [Las Vegas Hilton hotel](#)

Fire is 20th deadliest single-building or complex fire in United States history, <http://www.nfpa.org/itemDetail.asp?categ..>

More NFPA stats on deadliest/large-loss fires, <http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?cat..>

Legeros - 11/21/10 - 09:07

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

This Morning's House Fire on Shellum Street

11/22/10 113 W - + 7 - 2

Engine 12 at a one-story single-family residence, with fire and smoke showing from the rear of the structure. Dispatched at 2:02 p.m., controlled at 2:50 p.m. The house was empty, and the cause was blamed on improperly discarded smoking material. About 75 percent of the house was damaged. The fire department issued a media release earlier this morning. News reports were subsequently posted by [WRAL](#), [NBC17](#), and the [News & Observer](#). The latter incorrectly cites the time to place under control as over two hours. All stories are very brief and do not include images from the scene. The NBC17 story has the obligatory stock image of flames.

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Pedestrian Deaths on I-40, I-440

11/22/10 80 W - + 5 - 3

Two deaths in two weeks on our freeways. Saturday night, a 23 year-old male was struck and killed crossing the eastbound lanes of I-40 near I-540. As [this WRAL story reported](#), he was a suspect in an accident in the westbound lanes about a mile away, which occurred a few minutes earlier. Last Saturday, a 59 year-old male was struck and killed crossing I-440 near Western Boulevard. The accident occurred at 8:15 p.m., [reported this WRAL story](#).

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Rockwell Rural Receives Pierce Custom Contender

11/22/10 155 W, 1 I - + 9 - 3

Found on FireNews in their [new deliveries section](#), check out this high-cab Pierce Customer Contender delivered this summer to Rockwell Rural Fire Department in Rowan County. Built on a Velocity chassis, it's equipped with a 2,000 GPM pump and 1,000 gallon tank. Or see another photo and a few more specs on the [Pierce web site](#).

How did I find the latter? Google didn't find it, but the Pierce site has a search box. The results showed two pages with matches. Neither page had the truck, however. What next? Thinking about the nature of the site, it seemed logical that the web site search engine might have captured just a snapshot in time. Or two times, when the Rockwell rig was listed on those particular pages. But since new deliveries are always being added, I clicked to the pages *after* the indicated pages. Voila.



This truck is somewhat unique in several ways. I believe Pierce calls these trucks Big Block Contenders because you can get them with up to 500 HP Detroit's. The cab is a Velocity but with less "custom" options making it a Contender. Most Contenders are built at the Bradenton, FL plant but these are built in Appleton. Corrections welcome...

BFD1151 - 11/22/10 - 13:37

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Tiller in Service

11/22/10 123 W, 1 I - + 6 - 6

The Raleigh Fire Department placed its newest piece of aerial apparatus in service today. Ladder 4 at Station 1 now operates a 2010 Pierce Arrow XT tractor-drawn aerial ladder, 1500 GPM, 300 gallons, 100-foot. The tiller was delivered in July and replaced a 2004 Pierce Arrow XT that overturned while responding to a call in July 2009. Ladder 4 had been operating a reserve platform, a 1999 American LaFrance Eagle midmount. The tiller is the fourth for the department (1916, 1958, 2004, 2010), or sixth if you include two replacement cabs (1939, 1979). It's the fourth 100-footer, by my count. And the 12th delivered with a pump. As well as the 41st Pierce, if my math is correct. Here are some photos of the truck from [Lee Wilson](#) and [Mike Legeros](#).

*Lee Wilson photo*

with this new ladder in service, raleigh probably has the best fleet of front line apparatus in the triangle if not the state.

Charlie - 11/24/10 - 03:29

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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New Apparatus?

11/24/10 65 W - + 8 - 10

We're overdue to inquire about new apparatus deliveries and orders. Who's received new rigs of late, and who is receiving new apparatus in the next, say, six months? Nothing to report from the city of Raleigh. No new or replacement apparatus was planned for this budget year. What's the word from Durham, Cary, Chapel Hill, as well as around Wake and other counties?

Apex Fire & EMS has placed a new ambulance in service. An older module (purchased from Six Forks) was remounted to a new Chevy G4500. We are also in the process of placing a new USAR vehicle in service, but I will let Apex BC provide those details.

DJ - 11/24/10 - 09:55

Cary is currently working on specifications for a replacement for Rescue 4 to be similar to the current Truck 7, also working on specifications for a replacement for the Mack Service reserve truck, which will be an aerial device (most probably rear-mount 100'-105' platform), allowing one of the current aerials to be placed into reserve. In similar news former E-1 (2002 Pierce) which was struck by a semi on I-40 has been repaired and has returned to service as a reserve engine. Firehouse 8 is also almost complete with the design process and moving along for a fall 2012 opening.

CFP 7021 - 11/24/10 - 14:38

Not sure the last update from Durham, there has been a few deliveries over the summer. A new mobile support unit, all new battalion units (BC-1, BC-2, BC-3), 2 new ladders (L-1, L-2), 2 new engines (E-9, E-13), and the opening of station 15 (16 total stations). Pictures are on durhamfire.net

DB ([Web Site](#)) - 11/24/10 - 14:40

@ DJ.. saw that new AF&EMS unit on a call the other night... is it just me or is the floor of the box a lot higher off the ground than normal? I kept waiting for an air-ride suspension to lower the body... I did like the new graphics.

CFP 7021 - 11/24/10 - 14:42

EMS will take delivery of three Navistar chassis ambulances by early March, one of which will have a bariatric lift gate on the rear. This will expand the fleet of these vehicles to two (EMS-1 and TBD). In addition, replacement SUVs for Chief 200 and MD-2 will be in after the first of the year. Springtime will bring the replacement of several of the Chargers assigned to the APP units. The new Ambulance Strike Team trailer will be ready for use before Christmas.

Olson - 11/24/10 - 17:49

Why are the chargers being replaced? Mileage or are they on a lease agreement. They are not that old are they? Just curious.

gen3fire - 11/24/10 - 23:13

The Chargers are being replaced because they've reached service life mileage. They're being replaced with Explorers because the Charger just didn't hold up to the demands of the service very well. Turns out the ground clearance is not great for some of our driveways, and the air scoop mount causes water ingestion in deep puddles like those that happen in parking lots. Things that you couldn't know until you actually used them, and things that don't appear very much in the life of the law enforcement officers who use them.

CH100 - 11/25/10 - 12:45

@CFP7021- Yeah, they do sit a little higher. I have noticed it with ours and with the SF units. The power lift Stryker cots we have will just clear the back of the floor when sitting on level ground. But then again, if this is the only glitch, then we can get by. My experience so far has been extremely positive with the Chevy...head and shoulders above the E450. Drives better, rides better, runs better...CHEVY'S BACK!!!

S

DJ - 11/25/10 - 13:31

Skip/Jon, what is an ambulance strike team trailer? Or is that self-evident??

Legeros - 11/25/10 - 14:42

From the name...one pictures a trailer, with armor plating, a pivoting M-134 on each side, a swivel turret on top with a pair of M2's, a ramp on the back to deploy a heavy weapons squad, and maybe a BGM-71 TOW for good measure...

Gotta love the NIMS terminology...

C100 and/or Olson can provide the details.

DJ - 11/25/10 - 16:13

Google finds enough information on the AST concept to fuel adequate speculation. (A process as fun as learning actual facts, no?)

So we imagine, say, five ambos and a supervisor sent on special assignment, along with a trailer of mass-casualty supplies. Like a smaller Truck.1, maybe?

Legeros - 11/25/10 - 16:50

...and if Lee and me show up on scene together, does that constitute a Fire Photographer Strike Force???

Legeros - 11/25/10 - 16:58

The Ambulance Strike Team or AST concept (really, to be NIMS-correct, an EMS Task Force) is a deployable resource that is part of the State Medical Response System (other components are the SMAT-1, SMAT-2, and SMAT-3 teams). The idea is a pre-configured team that can fulfill two principal functions – (a) evacuation of medical and health care facilities in a threatened area, threatened by storm, wildfire, etc., or (b) augmenting or replacing an EMS system that is devastated by some event, such as a hurricane, as well as meeting other EMS needs.

NC State OEMS is currently building ASTs around the trauma system Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) and point EMS agencies. Wake County is the point agency for NC-AST 8, which will include the EMS agencies of the counties in the Capital RAC.

Using NIMS terminology, an AST (or EMS TF) will consist of a supervisor and several individual resources. We're thinking an ambulance bus and several ALS or BLS ambulances. The AST trailer is configured to provide logistical support to the AST – supplies, equipment, communications, and a small command area.

Chief Joseph Zalkin is leading the state AST effort, and Chief Jon Olson is the architect of the trailer. Should be out for display sometime soon.

CH100 - 11/26/10 - 15:33

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'?

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

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

New Ambulance For Apex

11/24/10 84 W, 1 I - + 8 - 6

As noted in [our prior thread](#), Apex Fire & EMS has placed in service this ambulance, a former Six Forks EMS patient module mounted on a 2010 Chevrolet G4500 chassis. Under the hood is a Dura Max diesel. The module was painted, and equipped with LED lights inside and out. Since the time of this picture, a door seal's been added. The truck is currently in service as EMS 41. Dale Johnson supplied this photo:



Hey DJ that's not the box from old SF truck four is it?

PJ - 11/24/10 - 20:07

@PJ- Yep, I think it was. Big difference. We are also looking at remounting our current '#2' which is currently a spare.

DJ - 11/25/10 - 15:50

Wow, I've been out of the loop. I did see a new truck at 123 the other day. I'm guessing that was a remount from somewhere because it was nothing like the setup for #8 and #9. I didn't see #1 at any of the stations, I'm guessing that's the one that got wrecked out.

PJ - 11/25/10 - 22:25

@PJ- #5 got wrecked. The one at #123 is a remount. It was purchased already remounted, i.e. the box did not come from a SFEMS unit. It is a National box on a Chevy G4500.

DJ - 11/25/10 - 23:20

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Wake Forest Fire Board Names New Fire Chief For 2011

11/24/10 84 W - + 5 - 7

The *Wake Forest Gazette* reported on November 10 that the [Wake Forest Fire Department](#) Board of Directors has named a Deputy Chief Ron Early as the new Fire Chief, effective September 1, 2011. Early is presently Deputy Chief for Administration. Current Fire Chief Freddy Lynn will become a senior chief of special projects. The story also includes an overview of the department's command staff, and the recent history of the chiefs of the department. [Read the entire article.](#)

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend Date Change in 2011

11/24/10 80 W - + 3 - 6

The [National Fallen Firefighters Foundation](#) has announced a date change for the 2011 National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend. The dates have been changed to October 14-16 in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The original date conflicted with Yom Kippur, one of the holiest days in the Jewish calendar. The 2011 weekend will commemorate the 30th anniversary of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial, and will also follow the 10th anniversary of the events of September 11. [Read news release.](#)

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Morehead City Station 4

11/26/10 93 W, 1 I - + 10 - 7

That's what the sign at the station says at [325 N. 25th Street](#), but it really appears to be a storage building for [Morehead City Fire & EMS](#). Mr. Blogger photographed same after pre-dawn shopping in Carteret County. Er, browsing. Didn't buy anything at Wal-Mart or Best Buy.

Peeked inside the bays. Parked inside is what looks like a reserve pumper (Engine 9) and a spare ambulance. The building was formerly occupied by Morehead City Rescue Squad & EMS, which merged with the fire department in recent years. Click to enlarge:



Is now used to house some of the candidates of the fire academy in Morehead City.

B Johnson ([Email](#)) - 11/28/10 - 16:25

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

Wildwood Unit 4

11/26/10 55 W, 1 I - + 11 - 5

Leaving town this afternoon, we spotted this truck sitting behind the Wildwood fire station on Highway 70 west, just outside of Morehead. There's a neat mural on the thing. The town's third fire station is also located here, and occupies a building behind Wildwood Fire & EMS. Click once or twice to enlarge:



Unit 4 operates as an all-call air truck, rehab station, and catch-all. I remember driving it... it was always fun to try and get the electrical gremlins to stop messing around.

There was a set of extrication tools on it, but they were moved to Engine 2, which is the first out apparatus on all fire-related calls.

CJS ([Email](#)) - 11/28/10 - 07:28

Here's a closer view of the mural, from Lee Wilson: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/leewilson/5..>

And his picture of the truck, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/leewilson/5..>

It's a 1997 International/ROM, purchased from a fire department in Virginia. Air, light, rehab, and former rescue unit.

Legeros - 11/28/10 - 08:16

This use to belong to the Winfield and Community volunteer fire company in carroll county Maryland. The mural is of engine 143 fighting a fire with air 14 lighting it up.

fire guy 10 - 08/06/14 - 22:40

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Caption This Photo

11/26/10 52 W, 1 I - + 10 - 8

How's this for a chevron pattern? Though they're not reflective, it would probably stop traffic if the thing were sitting smack int he middle of a roadway. For extra credit, can you peg this place? Hint, it's somewhere between here and the coast.



South of the Border??

Beach ([Email](#)) - 11/27/10 - 09:56

...somewhere between here and the **North Carolina** coast.

Legeros - 11/27/10 - 09:58

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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Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - Washington Fire-Rescue-EMS « Caption This Photo » Mystery Building Remembers State's First Fallen Firefighter

Washington Fire-Rescue-EMS Remembers State's First Fallen Firefighter

11/26/10 143 W - + 8 - 11

Just about caught up after Turkey Day. My trusty Google alerts [found this article](#) from the *Washington Daily News*, about the fire department's efforts to remember the state's first recorded fallen firefighter. Edward Peed was struck and killed by a burning wall on February 8, 1902. He was a volunteer firefighter and a member of Washington's all-black Salamander Fire Company.

The article recounts historical details credited to Yours Truly, and which were likely drawn from these [fallen firefighter histories](#) of mine. It also tells about a former's member's search for Peed's grave, and how his headstone was located in a old private black cemetery.

The marker was relocated to a memorial garden at the fire station in 2000. The town is now working toward installing a new monument at Beebe Park to further memorialize Peed. [Read the entire story.](#)

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Mystery Building

11/26/10 44 W, 1 I - + 6 - 5

Let's have a little more play. This one's probably obvious to the mid-eastern Piedmont crowd. That's the right descriptor for this building's location, no? More later on how this one relates to fire service history.



Todo, I don't think we are Kansas anymore.

Marcus - 11/27/10 - 06:02

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Web Site: (optional)

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Charlotte's Steamer in Action, Part 2

11/26/10 65 W - + 9 - 4

[The FireCritic found this superb video](#) of the Charlotte Fire Department displaying 80 years of fire apparatus history, including operation of their 1902 American LaFrance Metropolitan steamer. Also shown is a 1928 American LaFrance pumper, a 1948 Mack pumper, a 1958 Seagrave pumper, and a 1971 Seagrave pumper. How cool is that? See our [prior posting on same](#), with more information about the steamer.

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preferred)
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Remember personal info?

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Faces From The Past - Shaw University, January 23, 1991

11/28/10 102 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

Digging through some personal snapshots this morning. How many people can be identified in this photo from the fire at Meserve Hall at Shaw University on January 23, 1991? The two in the foreground are obvious. Left is Asst. City Manager Carolyn Carter. Right is Fire Chief Sherman Pickard. Who are the rest of the folks? Sorry for the poor enlarged quality of the print. Probably from a compact camera, versus 35mm film. And here are [some news photos](#) from that day. (Scroll down a bit on that site.) Click **once or twice** to enlarge:



Lemme try..... Gerald Brown (beside Ms. Carter), Linwood Barham (WCEMS left rear), Randy Moore (WCEMS in yellow turnout coat), a young Matt Ammons (right-RFD explorer-not in gear), possibly a young Chris Wilson (RFD Explorer-in gear). I can't remember the RFD FF's name (standing). I was there but not on duty... had just left Hazmat training at Station #20.

A.C. Rich - 11/28/10 - 13:56

And that would be Troy Davis standing between Linwood and Randy.

Olson - 11/30/10 - 00:20

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Consolidating County Fire Services in Florida

11/29/10 242 W - + 13 - 9

From a reader, here's an interesting [Daytona Beach News-Journal article](#) titled *Unified Fire Service Faces Uphill Battle*. The story is about interesting and intentions of creating consolidated fire department in Volusia County, FL. That's a coastal community toward the north. Population in 2000 was 443,343. Size of 1,432 square-miles, 1,103 of which is land. Has 16 incorporated cities and towns, including Daytona Beach. Looks like the county has a fire department with 20+ fire stations. The other 12 fire departments are probably all municipal.

As for consolidation, cites the article, county residents have been hearing for 25 years that they could (a.) save money and (b.) get better service if everyone was protected by a single fire department. And there's a new study making the same points, and this time quite a few people agree with the findings. Elected officials, civil leaders, business owners, and even fire chiefs.

What are the upsides? Rising pension costs is one issue talked about. And they've been rising due to "the unspoken competition among cities and fire unions." Consolidation would end the competition. It would also eliminate duplication in management and support positions, the article states. Estimated \$5.7 million in annual savings on that alone. What are the downsides? The story talks about the impact on property taxes. Not everyone pays the same rate for fire protection. Equalizing would equalize, which means some people would pay more, and some would pay less.

Interesting story. [Read it.](#)

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Where Anonymity Breeds Contempt

11/30/10 103 W - + 12 - 5

That's the title of this morning's thought-provoking and perhaps comment-provoking [editorial in *The New York Times*](#). A product design manager at Facebook offers a perspective on anonymous trolling, with the latter being defined as "the act of posting inflammatory, derogatory or provocative messages in public forums." The problem is human nature, the writer writes. Anonymity increases unethical behavior, research has long-shown. How do you combat the problem on social networks? She talks about promoting accountability. Having content providers moderate comments and forums. Use commenting services. And, she says, stop allowing anonymous comments. Your thoughts? [Read the editorial](#).

I would be fine with having an account in order to post to this blog, to include a profile of myself if necessary. I don't ever post anything that I wouldn't say to my Chiefs or Town Manager, etc. I think it would greatly cut out some of the inflammatory comments and perhaps lead to some more educational discussions if everyone knew who you were. (Most of us know each other anyway!)

Bob P. - 11/30/10 - 17:22

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

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No

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Apartment Owners Group Wants Pine Straw Ban Delayed

11/30/10 121 W - + 8 - 8

[As this NBC17 story reports](#), the Triangle Apartment Association is requesting Raleigh leaders postpone the city's new pine straw ban. That ordinance goes into effect tomorrow, December 1, and requires that pine straw be kept at least 10 feet away from all multi-family structures. The ordinance was first discussed after 12 buildings with 38 homes were damaged or destroyed in the Pine Knoll Townes fire of February 2007. [It was passed](#) after seven houses burned in the Highland Creek neighborhood in March of this year. The complaint of the apartment association is that the change is costing too much money, with the law placed into effect in the same budget year that it was passed. [Read that story.](#)

I can't believe the law even passed. This has got to be one of the biggest embarrassments the city has ever brought on itself.

RescueRanger - 11/30/10 - 20:42

Mike, what is an apartmenter? :-)

stretch - 11/30/10 - 20:56

That is a good question, Stretch...

Legeros - 11/30/10 - 20:59

I guess it's a case of "Pine straw vs. Building codes" (exterior structural finish – aka vinyl)..... Score: Pine straw = 0, Building codes = 1. The pine straw ordinance is a cheaper alternative to reduce the fire loss in these target hazards. However, hopefully more lobbying can be conducted to make the exterior finishes of these structures more fire resistive – somewhat "in kind" with the 13R for sprinkler systems.

A.C. Rich - 12/01/10 - 12:43

What are the downsides of such codes and enforcement therein?

Legeros - 12/01/10 - 20:11

As you all know here in Apex we were the first in Wake Co. to approve such a ban, our ordinance is the most stringent and worded to include all buildings with the exception of free standing single family homes, since town homes are considered single family homes in the building code the other ordinances in the area do not cover town homes. We used the approach of education with all of the commercial properties notifying them in advance and allowing them to keep any existing mulch material until it was scheduled for replacement.

DDillon - 12/01/10 - 20:44

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OSFM Fire & Rescue Journal - Back Issues & New Format

11/30/10 186 W, 5 I - + 15 - 5

November 2016

See this new page with archived history stories from the Fire & Rescue Journal: www.legeros.com/history/osfm

November 2010

The latest three issues of the *Fire & Rescue Journal* have been [posted on the web site](#) of the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The quarterly publication-- glossy, oversized, and exceptionally well-designed-- has been published since 2001. And in many issues, has featured historical features on major or unusual incidents around the state. Such as the Pine Knoll Townes fire, featured in the [Spring 2010 issue](#) and written by Yours Truly.



The Fall 2010 issue notes that they're moving to an online format. They will publish one more traditional print version in the winter, and then transition to an electronic version of the *Fire & Rescue Journal*. The new version will be housed on the OSFM web site, and provide more current and up-to-date information. Read the issues:

- [Fire And Rescue Journal Vol. 8 Ed. 1 \(Spring 2010\)](#)
- [Fire And Rescue Journal Vol. 8 Ed. 2 \(Summer 2010\)](#)
- [Fire And Rescue Journal Vol. 8 Ed. 3 \(Fall 2010\)](#)

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Social Media Short 'n' Sweet

11/30/10 142 W - + 12 - 9

The Fire Critic this weekend offered a [perspective on social media policies](#), which he'll be addressing in a social media class at FDIC early next year. He's posted a short 'n' sweet "hard knocks policy" for personal use of social media in the fire and EMS services.

The very short version: "If you would not say it in front of your mother, boss, and/or priest do not say it or write it." That's the same advice we were told when electronic mail first appeared. Still good practice, even when you intended your e-mail messages to be private.

[Read the Fire Critic's social media policy example](#). Does it square with how you conduct your social media activities? Does it align with what your department's guidelines are, if they have them? Discuss as desired.

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Yes
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P-25 Firefighting Vehicle

12/01/10 125 W, 2 I - + 8 - 3

For your midweek enjoyment, here's an interesting piece of specialized fire apparatus. The P-25 firefighting vehicle, designed for shipboard flight deck use. Carries 750 gallons of water and 60 gallons of foam. Plus three 20-pound Halon 1211 extinguishers. Equipped with a 500 GPM turret and 100 feet of 1 1/2-inch hose with a 95 GPM nozzle. There's also an intake, for connecting to the ship's mixed AFFF system. The vehicle is two-wheel drive, powered by a diesel engine. [Read more technical details](#) from the Navy's Naval Sea Systems Command site. Two pictures below, one showing a P-25 painted in FDNY colors in remembrance of those lost on September 11, 2001. For you modelers, there are even a couple plastic kits of same. Google finds those easily.



US Navy photos

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Johnston County Civil Defense Rescue Truck For Sale

12/01/10 99 W, 1 I - + 10 - 10

From reader Brian Sherrill, this vintage beauty was found for sale at Atlantic Avenue Tire & Service. The side of the truck reads Johnston County Civil Defense Rescue Service. And with the original blue and white Civil Defense paint scheme still intact! Looks like maybe a mid-1960s panel van, maybe GMC or Ford. Our readers can probably provide some history on the truck, as well as provide a buyer. This one'll probably get scooped up real quick. Maybe this weekend we can get some more photos. Click to enlarge:



Mid 50's International. 4 wheel drive. Sold by the town of Smithfield around 1998 or so. Myself and one of the paramedics there almost tried to drive it, but the dry rotted tires (looks like the same ones!) changed our minds. It was a really cool truck. I see the 'for sale' sign...if my wife and the HOA would not get mad and throw a fit I would try to buy it.

It used to have a cargo rack on top that carried a Stokes basket. There was a Siren siren light on the cab roof and another siren on the front bumper with the winch. It carried 'old school' rescue equipment like ropes, chains, come-a-longs, etc. It was also used at one time to pull the old rescue boat that I think was sold around the same time.

I have seen three others on International chassis from 1954-5 or so, and one on a 1957-8. Also have seen a couple on Dodge platforms. No Fords or GMs.

For a long time the Smithfield Rescue Squad was called the Johnston County Civil Defense Rescue Service. I remember their 1973 Pontiac ambulance with that lettering.

In those days JCCRS rotated with an ambulance service operated by the Smithfield Lions Club. I am not sure when they stopped rotating and it became simply the Smithfield Rescue Squad.

DJ - 12/01/10 - 23:41

The Vance County Squad had a 1964 GMC that carried a lot of the similar type equipment

rnln ([Email](#)) - 12/02/10 - 01:39

The Panel Truck that was at Duty Tire on Atlantic Ave in Raleigh is a 1957 International S120 panel truck. This was a special order panel truck

provided by the Civil Defense, later assigned to Smithfield Fire Department. It is a 3/4 ton 4X4 in line 6 with a 4 speed, stock 8000lb Ramsey on the front bumper. it has only 15,000 miles. We are trying to find old pictures or any of the old equipment to restore this vehicle. It was purchased for resoration by the local Maaco shop on Atlantic. Please call Dwight at 919-264-2000 if you have any information or pics!!!

Dwight Bubac ([Email](#)) - 01/22/11 - 20:52

Do you still have the old CD panel truck? I am looking for a resoration. e-mail me with info: dpreact57@yahoo.com

Thanks

Warren

Warren ([Email](#)) - 01/24/14 - 02:14

I work for NCEM, North Carolina Emergency Management, what use to be call Civil Defense, I am interested in this vehicle if it is for sale, please email me at sonofaduke@yahoo.com or call 3360453-4384.

Tyres Tatum ([Email](#)) - 07/28/14 - 23:52

Name: (real name preferred)

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Garner Fire-Rescue and Wake EMS Station Now Open

12/01/10 120 W - + 6 - 4

Press release. Wake County and the town of Garner held a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Garner Fire-Rescue and Wake County EMS Station, 125 Spaceway Ct., Garner, today, December 1, 2010, at 10 a.m. The public was invited to tour the facility immediately following the ribbon cutting. "The new combined Fire-Rescue and EMS station is a model for an efficient approach to service delivery due to its unique, multi-jurisdiction, multi-agency partnership," said Tony Gurley, chair of the Wake County Board of Commissioners. "The partnership reduces the cost for everyone – especially our citizens – while improving service." [Read entire press release.](#) And watch for photos from Lee Wilson posting soon.

Garner Citizen story about the new station, [http://www.garnercitizen.com/2010/12/02/..](http://www.garnercitizen.com/2010/12/02/)

Legeros - 12/02/10 - 22:46

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Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - *Wake County Fire* « **Garner Fire-Rescue an...** » **In Flames: Raleigh's ...**
Academy Graduation, Tuesday, Dec. 7

Wake County Fire Academy Graduation, Tuesday, Dec. 7

12/01/10 68 W - + 7 - 5

Recruit Class 3 of the Wake County Fire Academy graduates on Tuesday, December 7, at 7:00 p.m. The location is the Student Services building on the main campus of Wake Technical Community College at [9101 Fayetteville Road](#). The recruits have completed their 24-week academy, and with training that included certifications in Firefighter II, Rescue Technician, EMT Basic, and Haz-Mat Operations Plus. Congratulations to everyone!

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In Flames: Raleigh's Fight Against Fire

12/01/10 58 W, 2 I - + 8 - 3

The latest issue of the Raleigh Downtowner Magazine has a nice article on the early history of the Raleigh Fire Department. The author is Charis Guerin with the Raleigh City Museum. See page 22 of [this PDF version](#), or view the [interactive edition](#) of the magazine.

LOCAL HISTORY
In Flames: Raleigh's Fight against Fire
BY CHARIS GUERIN, RALEIGH CITY MUSEUM

From its founding in 1776 through the years of the twentieth century, Raleigh experienced numerous fires. Some of these fires destroyed parts of the city which caused serious damage. With the creation and expansion of the city's fire companies, improved water supply and the acquisition of appropriately maintained equipment, Raleigh eventually modified the city as a whole.

Raleigh's original design called for four of the city's main streets to lead towards Union Square, with each street terminating at that side and buildings on each side. All other streets were to measure to that side. These widths, along with the shade provided by trees, served as firebreaks for potential fires. But as Raleigh's population grew, more buildings made primarily of wood were constructed along the city's streets, thus increasing the risk of fire. In 1782, to reduce this threat, Raleigh's citizens approved funding for a hand-drawn fire engine that could pump the gallons of water per minute. However, the ability of this fire engine depended on a reliable water supply which Raleigh did not have. As a result, the city decided not to purchase the fire engine.

Approximately ten years later in 1792, a North Carolina law allowed the city to create regulations for fire control. This control took the form of a bill that would be amended to meet all citizens should a fire erupt. Fire at Cannon Lane and Town—then located at the corner of Morgan and Fayetteville Streets—the bill was put to use when a large fire broke out in 1792. Unfortunately, Raleigh citizens were initially unable to keep a fire from spreading and as a result, it would be buildings on the first two blocks of Fayetteville Street were destroyed in two hours.

The first House in Cannon Square survived the outbreak, only to burn down 19 years later during an other uncontrollable fire spread to a large city.

In 1792, almost 20 years after Raleigh's establishment, the city finally organized its first company of firefighters after the purchase of a "very complex" Fire Engine from Philadelphia, with a supply pump, a sufficient length of hose, Fire Hooks, and Chains. However, due to poorly planned and unenforced fire regulations, the fire engine was poorly maintained. When another fire occurred in 1792, the engine's ineptness and the city's continued lack of a reliable water supply came to light. Shortly after, city commissioners created a committee to organize volunteer firefighters, but with a couple of fire fires, no more volunteered each year, the city could do without additional members. In addition, should the fire bill stipulate, "all fire makes in the city were required to report with their fire-houses under penalty of five dollars fine for every failure to do so."

The firefighting was not only a man's world in the early 1700s. The daughter of Cannon Lane founder Peter and Margaret Case, Hannah Case Stewart, fought fires alongside the city men during those hand-drawn years. Stewart was determined that women firehouses to ensure a firebreak between buildings on those difficult occasions. As a result, she is considered one of the city's first heroes for her bravery and personal sacrifice.

By the start of the twentieth century, great improvements in Raleigh fire regulations, fire companies and water supply systems enabled the city to more efficiently control outbreaks. At the beginning of 1900, four fire companies consisting of 100 paid and volunteer members helped to protect Raleigh's 1,500 residents and 1.8 square miles from disasters like that which occurred in 1792. These companies were Rescue Company No. 1, Victor Company No. 1, Capital Fire Company No. 1, and Hook and Ladder Company No. 1. In addition, the city operated and maintained four public firehouses, 20 alarm boxes, three hand-drawn fire engines, one horse-drawn hook and ladder truck, eight hoses, and one hand-drawn steam fire engine on wheels.

Raleigh now has 17 fire stations, 17 engine companies, and a number of ladder and rescue companies, as well as over 100 personnel, that help protect our precious residents in approximately 100 square miles. Today's fire engines, such as those at Fire Station 1 (Cannon Fire Station), pump 1,000 gallons per minute and exceed their normal 1,000 psi limit. For more information on Raleigh fire department history, visit www.raleighcity.org. If the large city makes a name for themselves that is something that you can be proud of. They are the people that are the backbone of the city. They are the people that are the backbone of the city. They are the people that are the backbone of the city.

22 RALEIGH DOWNTOWNER MAGAZINE | DOWNTOWN RALEIGH'S PREMIER MONTHLY | VOLUME 6, ISSUE 11

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Raleigh's Civil Defense Rescue Squad

12/02/10 104 W, 2 I - + 8 - 7

Next question about older rescue squads, how many North Carolina cities and towns operated those 2 1/2-ton heavy rescue trucks provided by Civil Defense? The Raleigh Fire Department operated this blue and white 1954 Reo obtained with the assistance of the federal government. It was considered part of a national reserve fleet, and would be recalled to Norfolk, VA, in the event of an enemy attack. Placed in service on October 7, 1954. Placed in reserve in November 1974. Never necessarily staffed, though operated as a second-piece of Rescue 1 for many years. [Read more on the truck's history.](#)



News & Observer photos

I know Greenville had one. Don't know if it was a Chevrolet or a REO Chassis. Started off with the Greenville Rescue Squad and then operated

by the Greenville Fire/Rescue Department when they merged. I know it survived until the early '90s at least. Always thought it was a beautiful truck.

Steven ([Email](#)) - 12/03/10 - 16:15

I believe I saw this truck being towed down S Wilmington st last year. It might have been going to scrap. Last seen going Trion st toward Garner

Robby Delius ([Email](#)) - 10/05/12 - 21:17

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Durham Service Ladder Truck

12/02/10 75 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

Guess it's history week at Blog Central. Check out this historical photo from the [unofficial Durham Fire Department web site](#). That's Truck 10, a Mack service ladder truck of late 1940s or early 1950s vintage. We'll let our Bull City readers clarify, as well as identify the location of the picture. Tobacco warehouse in the background, what do you think? Meanwhile, [see more historical photos](#). Click to enlarge:



DurhamFire.Net photo

Not sure on the year on the truck, but I believe the structure in the background is the old city garage. Here is a link to a video that also shows a lot of historic photos and information about the DFD, <http://www.angelfire.com/nc3/dfd/multime..>

DB - 12/03/10 - 13:20

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Erie Spectators

12/03/10 126 W, 1 I - + 9 - 5

Or perhaps eerie spectators to those unaware that it's hunting season in Erie, PA. [Firegeezer posted a report](#) on the block-long abandoned furniture factory that burned yesterday. The local paper [has a slideshow of strong shots](#) with this photo of spectators, including one person with what's identified as a "20-gauge shotgun." Is that right? Certainly something you won't see around here, folks watching a fire with rifles in tow. Civil disturbances notwithstanding. No word on what was being hunted. Deer? Moose? Duck? Rabbit? "I say it's duck season, and I say fire," said D. "Dumas" Duck in the famous Warner Brothers short. Or two shorts, if you count the attribution. Pumpnickel.



Christopher Millette/Erie Times-News photo

Deer season always starts the Monday after Thanksgiving in PA. As to the weapon it is a small gauge shotgun based on the diameter of the tubular clip. It also appears to be not cocked.

stretch - 12/03/10 - 08:25

I remember years ago going with Zebulon EMS to check in on a structure fire with Cornith Holders FD and Antioch FD in Johnston Co. It was in Buck Adams trailer park, which is not known as the "CARY" of Johnston Co. There was a fire fighter posted at the front and the rear of every apparatus with a shotgun to keep the residents from stealing everything off the trucks. So, this is not so unusual of a sight.

former ZEMS - 12/03/10 - 13:15

Wabbit season!

Duda - 12/04/10 - 17:59

"No... ELMER SEASON!!!!!"

CJS ([Email](#)) - 12/04/10 - 19:45

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

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Yes

No

Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - *Would You Believe a Lime* « Erie Spectators » Highway Patrol Partne... *Tanker From Selma?*

Would You Believe a Lime Tanker From Selma?

12/03/10 63 W, 1 I - + 6 - 9

[That's for sale on GovDeals](#), a 1985 Chevrolet/Scottsdale pumper-tanker painted in glorious lime. Eleven days left on that auction. How many lime trucks served in the smaller towns and departments around here, anyway? We only had one in Wake County, airport rigs notwithstanding. That was a Yrac pumper.



Durham had lime colored trucks in the 70's and phased them out by the early 90's. Clayton had a lime engine still a few years ago. Nahunta fire department still operates lime trucks.

charlie - 12/04/10 - 04:26

The Selma truck was purchased as a used unit from someone in Wayne County, maybe Nahunta.

DJ - 12/04/10 - 12:11

Clayton Pumper #7 or 187 by the old Johnston County numbering scheme was a 1976 Ford. Lee Wilson had a great pic of it.

Jason - 12/04/10 - 17:24

YRAC operated a yellowish lime truck at one point... I believe it was a mid 70s Ford

CFP 7021 - 12/04/10 - 23:21

This truck was bought for the class 9 iso rating in the early 90's from Dudley Fire Department. It has sat in that spot since 2005 when the current Engine 10 was purchased.

Adam - 12/05/10 - 08:40

Yrac #3 (later 292) was a 1975 Ford with a John Bean 750 gpm two stage pump and 1000 gallon tank. A quick dump was added later. It had one 1 1/2 and one 2 1/2 preconnect line. The engine was a 534 cid gas burner with a 5 speed manual transmission.

DJ - 12/05/10 - 09:09

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

Remember personal info?
Yes

Highway Patrol Partners with Raleigh Fire Department to Reach Victims Faster

12/04/10 99 W - + 9 - 4

NBC17 this week [posted this story](#) about the helicopter rescue program that's partnered the North Carolina Highway Patrol and the Raleigh Fire Department. With the Patrol's helicopter and the fire department's firefighter/emergency medical technicians, they can more quickly reach injured victims that would be otherwise inaccessible by land vehicles. Before the program, the fire department would have to wait on a helicopter from Salisbury. The rescuers are available 24-hours a day. There are 15 firefighter/emergency medical technicians on the aviation rescue unit. Watch the story below:

Unless I am mistaken this would be the HART (Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Technicians) program yes?

For those interested in monitoring HART Comms we have the Talkgroups listed at RR.com: <http://bit.ly/VIPERNC>

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/04/10 - 17:47

The NCHART program operates with the NCANG out of Salisbury, I believe. Different animal.

Legeros - 12/04/10 - 18:01

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Inside Greenville's Old Station 1

12/04/10 104 W, 1 I - + 6 - 4

Speaking of Greenville, here's a great old picture found on their [fire/rescue history Facebook page](#). View inside old Station 1, which was built in 1940 at the corner of 5th and Green streets. Since demolished, the station had bay doors on two side. Here's a [page with a picture](#). The below image is probably dated to the 1960s. Looks like a pair of custom-cab American LaFrance pumpers, plus an aerial ladder of some sort in the background. In the foreground is a commercial cab pumper, perhaps used for rural service? And/or, perhaps was a rescue pumper? Click to enlarge:



Greenville fire history is one that I don't have good documentation about. If any Pirates are reading, I would love to be sent a long-form narrative history, should one exist. And someday— some future year or decade— I will be tooling there to collect copies of old photos. Plan to publish a book of North Carolina historic fire photos at some point. Maybe in 2020.

Legeros - 12/04/10 - 10:21

Actually the International Pumper was just used on smaller calls to prevent wear and tear on the custom cab apparatus. At that time Greenville was served by a seperate Fire Department and seperate Rescue Squad. The Rescue Squad was "International Champions" a number of times in the 1970s. There never was a rural fire service by Greenville Fire Department. The new Station 1 was built across Greene Street from this station. If you ever have time you should stop by the new Station 1, there is a number of historical artificats located in the lobby of this station.

Steven ([Email](#)) - 12/04/10 - 16:11

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Fighting a Boat Fire

12/04/10 55 W - + 9 - 2

[Statter911 found this video](#) this week of a boat fire in Eastport, Maryland. Twelve minutes of video condensed to three minutes. That's the Annapolis fireboat arriving. As Statter notes, downtown Annapolis is just across the Chesapeake Bay. Something you don't see every day, at least in the central Piedmont.

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.

City Directory Listings, 1971

12/04/10 144 W - + 10 - 5

Found in Hill's Raleigh City Directory 1971, a collection of which is available for reading at Olivia Raney Local History Library. They have directories dating back to the 1920s in print, and earlier version on microfilm. Select listings, found while doing random research today:

BEACON AMBULANCE SERVICE INC., C. T. "Chuck" Daughtry Genl Mgr, D. T. Goodwin Mgr, Licensed and Approved by the State Board of Health, Complete convalescent transporting, 209 Hillsborough Street, Tel 828-0737

RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT, Jack B. Keeter Chf., Central Fire Station 220 S. Dawson St., Tel 755-6390

RALEIGH FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU, John W. Holms In Chge, 220 S. Dawson St, Tel 755-6392

WAKE CONTY CIVIL DEFENSE, John C. Thorne Dir, 316 Fayetteville St, Rm 813, Tel 755-6245

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Ambulance Aid Inc., 613 W. North St.

Ambulance Aid Inc., 3207 Hillsborough Street, 27606, Tel 828-3282

Beacon Ambulance Service Inc., 209 Hillsborough Street, Tel 828-0737

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Charlotte Antiques in Action

12/04/10 67 W - + 9 - 4

Found by [Glenn Usdin on his FireTruckBlog](#), here are Charlotte's antiques appearing in the [2010 Belk Carrousel Parade](#) in downtown Charlotte on November 25. Rolling under their own power-- or pulled by horses-- are pumping engines from the 1900s through the 1970s. As for the parade, it's one of the biggest Thanksgiving parades in the nation. Video produced by the Charlotte Fire Department.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Clayton Engine 7

12/04/10 53 W, 1 I - + 7 - 3

Speaking of lime apparatus in Johnston County, Clayton Fire Chief Lee Barbee passes along this photo of Engine 7 during pump testing some years ago. That's a 1976 Ford/American LaFrance. The Clayton Fire Department had a number of lime green vehicles. We'll see if can get more pictures. 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.

Snowy Hill Fire Department

12/04/10 96 W, 1 I - + 8 - 7

Winter scene in northern Wake County. Station 1 of the Stony Hill Fire Department. Or tonight only, Snowy Hill. They are 52 years young this year, having organized in 1958. They capped a decade of rural fire department development. During the fabulous 1950s, these departments formed, the first rural departments in Wake County: Apex Rural, Garner, Zebulon Rural, Knightdale, Cary Rural, Fuquay-Varina Rural, Morrisville, Wake Forest Rural, Six Forks Road, Wake-New Hope, Western Boulevard, Wendell Rural, Rolesville, and Stoney Hill. There was an "e" in their name back then. Click to enlarge:



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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Kill Devil Hills 1969 American LaFrance

12/04/10 64 W, 1 I - + 9 - 3

Here's another apparatus photograph [found for sale on eBay](#), from a 35mm slide scan of a 1969 American LaFrance, 1000/500 that served Kill Devil Hills Fire Department. Lettered as Engine 2. Note the ladder rack above the hose bed. And such white hose at that! Photographer credit is not known. Click to enlarge the photo that appears in the eBay listing:



A fine example of the "Pioneer" style cab, produced by ALF from 1964 to 1978 as a lower cost custom apparatus.

RWECC - 12/05/10 - 17:55

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Garner FD Recruit Graduation and Promotion Ceremony, Thursday, Dec. 9

12/05/10 486 W - + 10 - 3

The Garner Fire Department will hold a recruit graduation and promotional ceremony on Thursday, December 9. The location is the Garner Historic Auditorium at [742 W. Garner Road](#). The ceremony starts at 6:30 p.m.

Badges will be pinned on 17 new firefighters, four Captains, six Lieutenants, two First Class Firefighters, and four volunteer Engineers. The ceremony recognizes the accomplishments that these members have made, and allows their family and friends to be part of this great occasion.

The majority of the new positions have resulted from the opening of Garner's fourth fire station at 125 Spaceway Court. The facility is a joint venture with Wake County and the town of Garner. The new station was funded for nine new positions, with three personnel per 24-hour shift staffing an engine company. Station 4 also houses a Wake County EMS unit.

Thirteen firefighters were hired on June 28, four of which were fully qualified to fill vacant positions within the department. The other nine started as members of Wake County Recruit Academy 3.

The five-month academy had a total of 23 firefighter recruits from throughout the area. It was run by two training specialists from Wake County Fire Services, Joe Knurowski and David Zoltoski. They work under Training Director Ricky Dorsey. The academy's classes were taught by Wake Technical Community College instructors from this area.

Each day of the academy started at 0800 hours with physical fitness. After 45 minutes of intense core exercises, the recruits started the day's instruction. They were trained to become Emergency Medical Technicians, North Carolina certified Firefighters Level II, and North Carolina Rescue Technicians.

They also received training in hazardous materials, national incident command systems, and firefighter safety and survival skills. All told, they logged 771 hours of training in five months.

Three firefighters were hired October 1, as a result of the merger of Garner EMS & Rescue with the department. This merger resulted in a transfer of the town's rescue contract, and Garner Fire-Rescue welcomed the three new employees.

On November 20, the Board of Directors appointed Matthew Poole as Fire Chief and Capt. Tim Herman as Deputy Fire Chief. These promotions resulted in the creation of one more open position, and the fire department is hiring another recruit from the recent academy.

The new and promoted firefighters are listed below. Congratulations to the Garner Fire Department and those honored next week.

Probationary Firefighters

Patrick Schamps, Jeff Gulley, Christian Kemp, Scott Rietvelt, Bryce Overton, Dean Falzon, Bradley Harper, Jason Pope, Matthew Spivey, Jeff Wommack, Ben Fredette, Michael Henderson, Robert Hodge, Jason Bellissimo, Robert Shoemaker, George Sutherland, John Booth.

Captains

Mike Bishop, Jason Deitch, Don Johnson, Jeff Jordan, Bradon Smith.

Lieutenants

Ronnie Correia, Thomas Baucom, Daniel Ward, Kevin Kenny, Greg Hodges, Scot Camden.

Firefighter First Class

Robert Beasley and Jason Stephens

Volunteer Engineers

Jody Steadman, John Miller, Lindsey Putman, and Danny Durham

Deputy Chief

Tim Herman

Fire Chief

Matthew Poole

Source: Garner Fire Department press release.

Captains- Mike Bishop, Jason Deitch, Don Johnson, Jeff Jordan, and Bradon Smith.

Tim Herman ([Web Site](#)) - 12/08/10 - 16:45

Thanks for the correction Tim. They were buried at the end of the probationary firefighters. I have restored them above.

Legeros - 12/08/10 - 18:29

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E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Mystery Vehicles

12/05/10 38 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

What are we looking at here through the telephoto lens? Hint, inside the fence are vehicles lettered for Buck Shoals FD (pumper), ERVFD Volunteer FD (pick-up truck), and USN (forklift). Among others. Click to enlarge:



Looks like KTC several years ago... Hahaha!

A.C. Rich - 12/05/10 - 23:51

State Surplus, Chapel Hill & Nowell ?

J.Boggs - 12/06/10 - 10:01

Forestry's yard on Garner Rd

Doppler - 12/08/10 - 00:06

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

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Situational Awareness

12/06/10 37 W - + 10 - 6

Guess we're doing good surfacing other blogger's content. But we've got the market cornered on history and mystery photos! [This one's was found by the Fire Critic](#). No details on where or when.

Just goes to show that the proper PPE, safety vest, and WHITE helmet still cannot cover up stupid!

Bob P. - 12/06/10 - 10:10

Saw the same thing happen with a chimney at a training fire about 19 years ago on Pocomoke Road

Rob Mitchell - 12/06/10 - 13:37

There will NEVER be a shortage of blog fodder...ever!

DJ - 12/07/10 - 08:59

Oooops!

A.C. Rich - 12/07/10 - 10:55

Why would someone run under it even more to screen left verses to screen right which is faster?

2redline - 12/07/10 - 13:42

Why stand underneath it????? Bob, email me...

Silver - 12/07/10 - 18:15

At least he had his vest on...I know it's quarterbacking but from the looks of it one step to the right and he would have been home free??

Frick - 12/07/10 - 19:36

CHAOS=Chief Has Arrived On Scene not that this is chaos

JD - 12/09/10 - 08:52

Exposures Aplenty as The Block Burns in Baltimore

12/06/10 120 W, 1 I - + 11 - 4

Dave Statter has the skinny on today's [big one in Baltimore](#). Five alarms in the 400 block of East Baltimore Street. Firefighters numbering 125. Sticks by the half-dozen, plus the snorkel. That's a reserve truck these days, right?

Exposures included the office building that houses fire department headquarters. Other "exposures" included employees of Gayety Show World, who vacated their place of employee in varying states of undress.

The fire spread to theirs and at least three other buildings on The Block. That's the city's hub of adult clubs. [See Statter's story](#) for links, slideshows, video clips, and a couple classic quotes about the aforementioned evacuees.



Haddock Taylor/Baltimore Sun photo

Audio from first 90 minutes: <http://statter911.com/files/2010/12/Firs..>

Truncated, not real time, sounds like. Blending dispatch and tac-channel traffic.

Reported by Car 2, who requests "strike the box for a building fire with people trapped." Initial dispatch: E6, E23, E2 as RIT, E26, E14, T6, T23, R1, Medic 7, B2, B6.

Working fire declared by Car 2. E55, Airplex 2, M41, Safety Officer, EMS something.

Second alarm. E13, E8, E51, T16, B3, PIO.

Exterior operations advised. Command advises everyone to prepare for heavy fire when roof ventilates. Fire on two floors, heavy smoke throughout. Etc.

Good listening!

Legeros - 12/07/10 - 07:35

The snorkel is special called to the scene, with a truck company sent to services (?) to bring to the scene. They call it the Water Tower, a throwback to when they had water towers.

Called to the scene for horizontal reach, you think?

Articulated platforms are few and far between these days. Is this an example of their particular suitability?

Legeros - 12/07/10 - 07:47

I kind of like the platform/snorkel better than the straight stick truck. most departments have done away with the snorkel and are going to either the aerial platform or straight stick ladder truck. Raleigh still has a Snorkel in the reserve fleet.

Charlie - 12/07/10 - 10:44

From a truckies perspective, I prefer a straight stick, then a platform, then a Snorkel as a very last option. Snorkels require a lot of clearance all the way around, and almost an engineering/physics degree to operate (if I want to do this, which way will that beam and the knuckle go).

I like the straight stick because they can get in tight places, and can be ascended and descended just like a large ground ladder. Ladder a roof, do whatcha' gotta' do, then come down. Put it in place to your objective and leave it there until you're done. In defensive mode, with a remote nozzle you can put it anywhere and not have anyone at risk to save a building which has been written off. And for those that say "you have to see where the water is going", here's a tip; if the fire isn't going out after a few minutes of flowing, move the nozzle, you're probably not in a good spot.

Silver - 12/07/10 - 14:34

From Jeff Harkey, here's the full run card for the incident:

Box 6-7 – 404 East Baltimore Street

C2 requests the box for a building fire with people trapped, 15:42

1st Alarm:

E6

E23

E2 as RIT

E26

E14

T6

T23

R1

M7

BC2

BC6

Self-dispatched, added to the alarm:

Safety 2

C3

Working Fire Dispatch:

E55

Air-Flex 2

M41

FID

EMS3

2nd Alarm:

E13

E8

E51
T16
BC3
PIO

(Staging at Gay/Lexington)

Special Call T51 (Water Tower) (Snorkel)

3rd Alarm:

E36
E31
E52
E41
T10
T5

4th Alarm: (16:07)

E58
SQ41
SQ11
E44
T8
FM
Fire Apparatus Coord

(County notified for coverage)

Car 1 as IC

5th Alarm:

E30
E35
E29
E21
T29
T26
BC1
MD1

Legeros - 12/07/10 - 22:12

Most of those companies responded to a second 5 alarm fire later that night in the Mt.Vernon section of town. Some were the same crews that had come in early for relief. Baltimore works 10's and 14's.

Mike - 12/08/10 - 10:34

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Profile of WakeMed Emergency Services Operations Center

12/07/10 75 W - + 7 - 3

[WRAL has posted a nifty profile](#) of WakeMed's Emergency Special Operations Center, which is located a few miles from the WakeMed main campus in Raleigh. The center's features range from teleconferencing centers to protected generators to a rail spur for receiving food or fuel. It's designed to function and provide support during disasters, or such major incidents as the ConAgra explosion in June 2009. [Read or watch the story.](#)

Next question, where did WakeMed move all their Special Operations vehicles to? They were located on Sunnybrook Road, at the old shopping center-turned-medical plaza.

Legeros - 12/07/10 - 22:33

Management Dr in Garner? I believe thats the correct road. Its across the street from the old lowes in Garner.

Adam - 12/07/10 - 23:03

Thats correct. Management Dr across the street from Agri Supply on US 70. Supposively the helicopter at some point in time is going to be based out of here as well. They are building a landing pad for it.

Mike - 12/08/10 - 10:28

What was I thinking its Management Way not drive. Sorry brain fart

Mike - 12/08/10 - 11:10

I knew it was Management something.

Adam - 12/08/10 - 15:30

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

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - *Task Force Says* « Profile of WakeMed Em... » Wake & District Publi...
Charlotte Can't Afford Cost of Fire, Police Personnel

Task Force Says Charlotte Can't Afford Cost of Fire, Police Personnel

12/07/10 114 W - + 9 - 5

From the *Charlotte Observer* comes [this story about public safety salaries](#). The problem, says a task force that's spent a year studying the city's budget, is that fire and police personnel receive annual raises that "exceed the growth rate" for other city employees. They'll also be losing federal stimulus money that helped pay for 125 new police officers. That expands the projected budget hole by a few more millions. By fiscal year 2013, police and fire expenses will surpass the property tax revenues that fund them. How does it get fixed? More revenues (higher taxes) or less spending (budget cuts). [Read the story](#).

Next day's story, no layoffs, says Mayor: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2010/12..>

Legeros - 12/08/10 - 19:37

Well, I'm glad there's no layoffs, but dang,... they have received some really good merit and COL increases given these times. I don't mean it ugly, but there must be more to this story... So, why in this economic crisis would a city not consider or at least identify this approach as a risk? Charlotte must have some form of a "survivability factor" where the economy has not resulted in a dramatic effect. FYI – The City of Raleigh's FY11 methodology is a 2% maximum merit (step) adjustment with NO cost of living this FY. Unfortunately, if you are in the 4th quartile of your pay grade, you will only receive a .5% merit increase (with a high or "outstanding" evaluation). The FY11 City of Raleigh budget document is at: <http://www.raleighnc.gov/content/AdminSe..>

A.C. Rich - 12/09/10 - 00:32

AC, your right, there is a lot that's not being told. The task force pretty much hung public safety out to dry, and rooted us as the cause of the city's financial problems. I'll comment a little further when I have a little more time.

Rides An Engine - 12/10/10 - 09:56

Engine rider – What is your staffing like in the Queen City these days?

firedriver - 12/10/10 - 23:27

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

Remember personal info?
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No

Comment:

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Wake & District Public Safety Pipes and Drums Concert, Saturday, Jan. 8

12/08/10 161 W, 1 I - + 9 - 2

Only about 100 tickets are left for next month's pipe band concert on Saturday, January 8, 2011. That's when [Wake & District Public Safety Pipes and Drums](#) celebrate their five-year anniversary at Fletcher Auditorium at the [Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts](#). Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the concert starts at 7:30 p.m.

Featured are Pipe Major John Cairns of the Peel Regional Police Pipe Band, the Bagpipes and Drums of the Emerald Society - Chicago Police Department, the North Carolina State University Pipes and Drums, the Triad Highlanders, and the Inis Cairde School of Irish Dance.

Host hotel for the weekend is the Downtown Raleigh Sheraton and they have (or had) a limited number of specially priced rooms. The after-event party follows at [Tir na Nog Irish Pub](#) in Raleigh. Concert tickets are \$10.00 each and can be purchased from band members or via the PayPal at www.ForOurFallen.org.



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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Sensitivity and Censorship

12/09/10 75 W - + 6 - 5

For a few days now, a very passionate discussion has been unfolding on Dave Statter's blog. The context is a Connecticut state trooper caught on film reacting to the presence of a photographer at a fatal accident scene. The issues being discussed include censorship of media and sensitivity toward victims. It's an age old issue, and one that probably every responder and photographer has encountered, discussed, or thought about. [Join the discussion.](#)

On a related note, there has been some discussion nationwide over the past two years regarding the release of 9-1-1 tapes, as they quite frequently expose what should be people's most private moments to widespread display. I've even talked to some ECC directors who believe that the "open records" aspect of calling 9-1-1 discourages some folks from even calling. For a snippet of what's currently happening on the other side of the mountains, you can check out: <http://psc.apointl.org/2010/12/10/dispa..>

RWECC - 12/17/10 - 16:24

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

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No

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Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society

12/10/10 109 W, 1 I - + 9 - 5

With the calendar year close to closing, tax-deductible donations are on many people's minds. For those interested in fire history, the Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society is a new charity on the block. Our mission is the preservation and presentation of fire department history. You'll hear more about the historical society in 2011. We're planning a membership drive, as well as other projects. We were recently granted 501(c)3 status as a charitable organization. Donations are tax-deductible, and can be made at our web site, www.raleighfirehistory.org. We welcome your support. Even pennies are golden. Thanks for reading.

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

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Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Mystery History

12/10/10 32 W, 1 I - + 9 - 4

Let's go back in time for this photo. Dramatic image from a prior decade. Somewhere in Raleigh. One of our readers took the photo, in fact. Click to enlarge:



Looks like 1996-1997 downtown (maybe E-3, E-1, T-1) A-shift working? Don't remember the street though, maybe Bledsoe or Blount?

firedriver - 12/10/10 - 23:30

Corner of Edenton and Bloodworth.

HJ - 12/11/10 - 07:46

Negative on Edenton and Bloodworth. Think west of State Capitol. Correct decade. One fatality.

Legeros - 12/11/10 - 09:24

I'm thinking it was in Engine 5's first due....

Silver - 12/11/10 - 12:23

707 W. Jones St?

AP - 12/11/10 - 15:19

Actually, that looks a bit more like that house on Clark Ave...2500 block, unsure of exact number.

AP - 12/11/10 - 16:32

First guess was right guess, though my records report 710 W. Jones Street. Fire started about midnight. Two alarms, with E1e, E1, T1, R6, C52, E5, E6, T8, R7, C51, among others. December 19, 1992. Raleigh FD photo unit member Jeff Harkey took the picture.

Legeros - 12/11/10 - 16:41

Name: (real name
preferred)

Remember personal info?

Hose & Nozzle Back Issues Wanted

12/10/10 65 W, 1 I - + 8 - 10

We mentioned this year, during holiday research at UNC library. The publication was called The Hose & Nozzle. Started as a newsletter in 1949 and finished as a magazine in 1980 or later. [We blogged about it.](#) Anyone have a stash of back issues that they want gone? Mr. Blogger will take 'em or even buy 'em. Never hurts to ask.



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

Remember personal info?

Yes
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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UPDATED - Night Training with New Camera

12/11/10 308 W, 3 I - + 10 - 9

Some weeks ago, one of my two Canon Digital Rebel XT bodies died. Replaced the thing with a Canon 40D, slightly used. Maybe 3,500 clicks on the shutter. Local purchase, after failed eBay attempt. Ask about that experience in private. The new camera has a higher ISO range than the last: 3200 versus 1600. Which means more sensitive to light, which should mean better night photography at fire scenes.

Tested the thing the last night, as companies were conducting training last night in the now-abandoned buildings in Walnut Terrace. The results were good with respect to amount of captured light, and little or no blur of stationary or slow-moving subjects. No flash was used. This was an ambient light exercise.



The posted results are decent. The amount noise is tolerable or better. Some of the colors are whacked, however, and maybe that's because no emergency lights were flashing. All that additional red and amber light on the fireground adds some tinting that we're familiar with. [See the results for yourself.](#)

Sunday update. Added a second set of pictures, these showing the results right out of the camera. Only adjusted for cropping and some added sharpness. Color, contrast, white balance, etc is what the camera captured. See which ones you like best.

No Adjustments

Here's what the camera saw, or at least captured to the best of the camera body and lens combination. [See set #1:](#)



With Adjustments

Why these adjustments? Trying to tone down the yellow cast, which should render the pictures a bit more realistic. But was the scene itself yellow cast, and thus these are actually inaccurate? Welcome to the dilemma of post-processing. [See set #2:](#)



You know, I need to get out more. I was at KTC a while back and, well, there was people there at Walnut Terrace. Stopped back by KTC this past week and a fence was going up and no one was there. The end of an era, if you will. First Halifax Court, the Chavis Heights, and now Walnut Terrace.

Not related to cameras and such, but I remember when such communities were built, some administration or another's answer to, well...

Anyway, you're right, the absence of specific 'mood' lighting (in this case flashing red and amber) does affect the resultant pictures' appearance. Another photographer told me that once a long time ago.

DJ - 12/11/10 - 14:13

This does make more sense when combined with the radio traffic last night. I was really stressed there for a few when both of my Uniden XT

Scanners priority jumped over to the FD Emergency Talkgroup and I heard the report of FFs trapped. Made for some interesting monitoring once I knew everyone was gonna be ok and it was training. Reminds me to go back through my Public Safety Emergency Talkgroup list and make sure they are all programmed in. I do hope I never have to hear real traffic on them.

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/11/10 - 20:03

Updated posting. Second set of pictures. Didn't address stylized photos. Even if a yellow filter-looking effect isn't as the eye saw (or remembered) the thing, it can be artistically appealing. Which versions do you like better/worse?

Legeros - 12/12/10 - 08:41

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Tight Squeeze For Cary's First Ladder Truck

12/13/10 134 W, 2 I - + 8 - 5

Cary's first ladder truck was a city service truck on a Chevrolet chassis purchased in 1964. It was first stored in a public utilities building behind the fire station. Because the truck was longer than the building, a hole was knocked in the back wall and a plastic cloth was hung over the truck's protruding front. It was replaced by a 1975 GMC service truck that with an enclosed body style that kept the ladders and other equipment protected from the weather. That was an innovation for its time. Believe Alexander Welding built the body? It was replaced by a 1995 Mack service truck, which might still be on the roster as a long-serving reserve unit. Click to slightly enlarge:



News & Observer / Cary Fire Department photos

that would be a great truck to find and restore for a parade apparatus.

charlie - 12/13/10 - 13:02

yes the Mack/Craft is still on the roster, it is scheduled for replacement this upcoming year, and will be replaced by an aerial.

CFP 7021 - 12/14/10 - 01:15

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

Raleigh's Original Tiller in 1984

12/13/10 100 W, 1 I - + 7 - 6

Found while filing negatives, here's an undiscovered shot of the city's original tiller in 1984. That is, the original [1916 American LaFrance tiller with its 1939 American LaFrance tractor](#). It's pictured behind Station 8, where it sat for several years. Or at least ten years, as this picture now confirms. The photographer was Gary Knight, who took numerous station shots for the 1984 year. It was subsequently sold to a private buyer, who stored the thing in Apex. The truck was again sold in 2008, and is presently privately owned in Harnett County. [See present day pics](#). Or click to enlarge:



Any word if the current owner is planning to restore it?

Emily - 12/13/10 - 22:24

What a shame

Rob Mitchell - 12/14/10 - 14:34

By reader request, here's a history of Raleigh's tillers, as posted earlier this year: <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..>

There are links on that posting to earlier historical perspectives, including an article from FireNews when the 2004 tiller was delivered.

Legeros - 12/14/10 - 20:44

@Emily – After looking at Mike's photos of it in its "current" state and location, it looks like it would take a small fortune to restore. Though it would be a VERY cool undertaking and I'd love to help out with labor on a project like that.

Duda ([Email](#)) - 12/16/10 - 09:39

Wonder what a project like that translate to, in man hours? Couple dozen? Couple hundred? Multiple hundreds? That might be one of those that's fun to start, but hell to finish?

Legeros - 12/16/10 - 10:32

Two Men Save Neighbor / Yesterday's Fire on Garner Road

12/14/10 150 W, 1 I - + 5 - 7

[WRAL posted this story](#) about two neighbors who rescued a man at an apartment fire in the 1300 block of Garner Road yesterday. James Cathey and Reginald Dudley, cousins, heard the smoke alarm in the apartment above them. They went upstairs, but received no response after knocking.

Opening the door, they found the apartment filled with smoke. Opening a window, they then found their neighbor unconscious in a chair. The two carried him and his recliner to the back yard. They then performed CPR and revived the victim. He was transported to WakeMed and later UNC Hospital.

Engine 3, Engine 1, Engine 13, and Ladder 4 were among the responding units. The fire in the two-story brick apartment building was quickly extinguished, and a [few scene photos were shot](#) as Mike Legeros was passing through the area.

[Watch the story.](#)



"Opening the door, they found the apartment filled with." ??
Is this some kind of a new guessing game? :)

Paul - 12/14/10 - 12:44

Thanks for the catch.

Legeros - 12/14/10 - 13:32

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

How to View Lee's Photos on Flickr

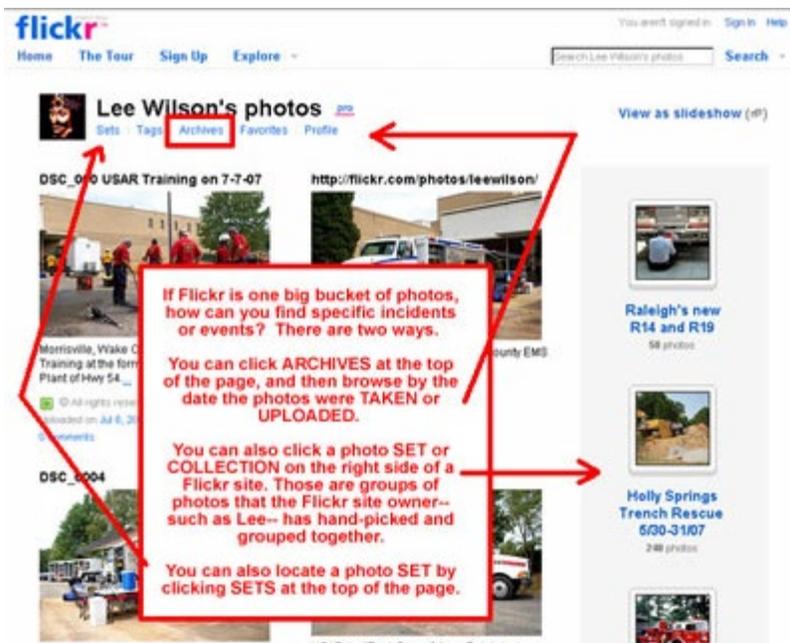
12/14/10 172 W, 2 I - + 7 - 8

Everybody knows our photo site at www.legeros.com/firepics, which is a shortcut to www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos. That's where you see incident and event photos posted by Mike Legeros and Lee Wilson. There's a catch as that site is a gateway to two different places. Lee's photos actually reside on a second site, Flickr. (Mike has a Flickr site as well.)



On the above site, look on the left navigation bar. There's a link labeled **Lee Flickr Help**. Click that baby and you'll be presented with a [blog entry from 2007](#), that provides help on navigating Lee's photo site. That site is located at www.flickr.com/photos/leewilson. Does everything make sense, Mack? If it doesn't, please ask questions!

Finally, what's new or needs changing on the above tutorial posting? Let us know and we'll update. That concludes today's lesson. Thank you for sitting still during class.



Recent Change to Lee's Photo Site

12/14/10 178 W, 1 I - + 9 - 3

One more thing about [Lee's photo site](#). There's been a recent change what is frustrating the heck out of people trying to download single photos. Here's our best attempt at explaining what's changed.

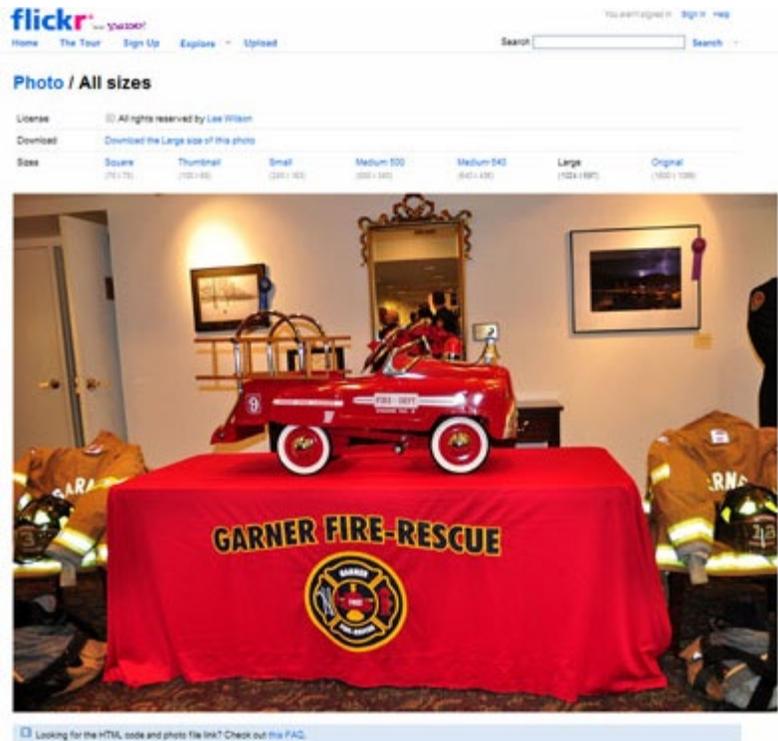
Problem:

When viewing a detail page, [like this one](#). When you right-click on a photo and select **View Image** or **Save Image**, a blank screen displays or blank file is saved. Which bites.

Solution:

Click on an individual photo, [like this one](#). Now if you right-click on the photo, there are four size options. Click any of those and a new page displays, showing the picture in that size. Right-click again, and you can view or save, and things will work fine.

Or, start at the individual photo and click the **Actions** menu in the upper-left corner of the page and the **View All Sizes** menu option. The same new page displays, showing a larger version of the picture. Again, you can right-click and view or save, and things will work fine.



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

Remember personal info?

Yes
 No

Caption This Photo

12/14/10 33 W, 1 I - + 10 - 7

Transit bus burns in downtown Chapel Hill. Five people aboard and evacuated safely. Six minutes to control after arrival of fire department. [See WRAL story.](#)



Scott Steger/WRAL photo

The flames were red and the trucks were blue...

Legeros - 12/14/10 - 20:40

Bus Pass Prices Heats Up as Economy Fails to Rise

Chad - 12/15/10 - 09:03

I knew i shouldnt have eatin those spicy nachos

CTK - 12/15/10 - 11:54

Take a ride on the hottest bus in town

Marcus - 12/15/10 - 12:45

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Mystery History

12/14/10 49 W, 1 I - + 7 - 8

Let's see how quickly folks can identify this one. Lee Wilson took the picture. Mike Legeros did a bit of perspective correction, since a wide lens was used. Three alarms that day. Note the news chopper in the upper-right corner. Click to enlarge:



Lee Wilson photo

Photo was taken just to the right of this point:

<http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF..>

RescueRanger - 12/14/10 - 21:26

I remember this one but cannot remember the name of the warehouse. It was on Penmarc Dr. and was a "Code 3" fire. I had the HM Team at KTC for monthly training. When we heard the dispatch, we ran outside and saw the column of smoke; then all 5 companies responded from KTC to aid at the call. It was an A-Shift day.

A.C. Rich - 12/14/10 - 22:24

It was the old News and Observer warehouse.

RescueRanger - 12/14/10 - 22:31

Lucky there was not a LODD that day.

Rob Mitchell - 12/15/10 - 19:13

This gets me thinking about the biggest commercial and industrial structure fires of the last decade. Three three-almarmers, if I am not mistaken. Penmarc, above in 2003. Diggs Drive in 2004. Hammell Drive in 2008. I'll compile a list later, and add the two-baggers.

Legeros - 12/15/10 - 19:50

Yeah Rob... I seem to remember some electrical lines down on one side – memory is foggy. ...or maybe the near miss was the two chiefs that had a heated discussion on scene. You were on E3 then (right?)

A.C. Rich - 12/15/10 - 23:03

Radio tower came down and missed Ladder 8 which was in the air. All because One chief said "we are going to save this man's records" The other chief said on the radio "I strongly suggest we get our people out right now" I know what I would do if someone said that on the radio

and I had command. There was a retirement not long after that (don't know that the fire had anything to do with it) I was on Engine 13 (Gypsy Wagon) filling in at Station 8 that day for the Haz Mat School

Rob Mitchell - 12/17/10 - 12:30

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Three Alarms in Charlotte

12/14/10 65 W, 1 I - + 8 - 8

Temperatures were around 30 degrees when Readfield Village Apartments caught fire in south Charlotte today about 10:30 a.m. Three alarms, 60-some firefighters, two hours to control, 11 people displaced, some \$750,000 damage. Read, see, and watch more at [WSCO-TV](#) and the [Charlotte Observer](#), for starters. Google for more news links. Readers to the west are welcome to add incident details.



WSCO-TV aerial image

This fire was called in by CMPD's helicopter, SNOOPY, reporting flames through the roof prior to FD arrival.

Rides An Engine - 12/15/10 - 22:25

Indeed, when in the "right place at the right time" Snoopy is an excellent resource for an overhead shot. In fact, the initial 911 caller reported seeing Snoopy flying and then didn't see the helicopter but saw lots of smoke coming from the apartments. This led them to believe that Snoopy had gone down. Snoopy was contacted and accounted for and gave the reports of fire through the roof. Station 24 is literally half a mile away with both trucks arriving on scene in 2 minutes.

Luke - 12/24/10 - 13:54

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

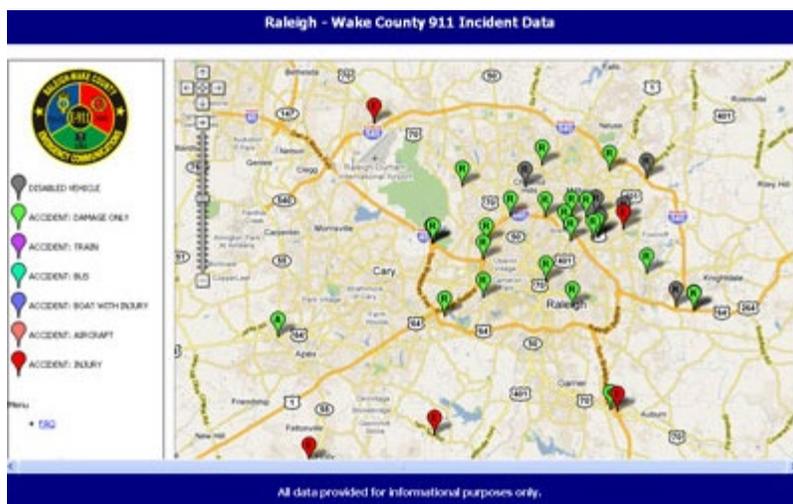
Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Live Accident Data From Raleigh/Wake ECC

12/16/10 94 W, 1 I - + 7 - 9

Wondering just how safe the roads are around Wake County on a give snowy morning such as today? One data point is the number of vehicle accidents that have been dispatched by the Raleigh/Wake County Emergency Communications Center. They have nearly live data on same that's automatically posted to their [Twitter site](#), and their map-based [incident data site](#). Incidents are posted within a number of minutes, and maybe longer during very busy periods. Very cool feature, to be sure!



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.

Cornelius-Lemley Engine Overturns in Charlotte

12/16/10 100 W - + 10 - 5

[This WBTV3 raw footage](#) was posted today of [Cornelius-Lemley Fire Department](#) Engine 5 that overturned on Poplar Tent Road this morning, while responding to a fire call. The [2005 Seagrave](#) reportedly struck a patch of icy road. Four firefighters were aboard. No injuries were reported.

CLFD just recently received approval to purchase a new engine. Seagrave was awarded the \$523,000 bid. They also recently obtained Cary's old 1995 Seagrave pumper, which is serving as a reserve truck. FireNews has [some of those details](#), via the Huntersville Herald. They mixed up a few facts in the original story, alas.

FireNews has posted the video, along with a press release issued by the Fire Chief: [http://firenews.net/index.php/headlines/..](http://firenews.net/index.php/headlines/)

Legeros - 12/16/10 - 22:53

Picture of rig on its top: <http://statter911.com/2010/12/17/overtur..>

News - 12/17/10 - 09:38

Having experienced this type of incident at Stony Hill and seeing our guys injured in an overturned truck, I am VERY, VERY, VERY glad these brothers are OK! I can definitely relate to the situation and hats off to Chief Barbee for providing a conclusive press release. Even with the best preventative measures, incidents will happen. Stay safe over there CLFD and Merry Christmas to all of you!!

A.C. Rich - 12/17/10 - 10:44

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

The Ultimate Fire Blog News Discussion Site?

12/17/10 130 W - + 9 - 9

Friday morning discussion topic. What's your vision of the ultimate fire blog or fire news or fire discussion web site? What are the features, the types of content, the personality, the tone, the structure that you like best? And that you use or would use the most? Open question. Reference any existing sites. Reference this site. Or imagine something not yet seen. Can be local, regional, national in scope. For example, Mr. Blogger loves reading, posting, and observing discussions. My ultimate site is very comment-friendly. That is, it's very, very easy for users to post comments. Might be moderated, either real-time or post-posting. Might require user registration. Might not. But my ultimate site draws users and thus discussions like flies. What's your vision?

I prefer Wordpress blogs (news style example [garnercitizen.com](#) and very basic example [ultralight.fredriksoerlie.com/about](#)), you can integrate buddy press which is like facebook (example [vybee.com](#)). Integrate in with facebook and twitter, flickr, etc.

2redline - 12/17/10 - 11:23

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Last Night's Two Alarms / Midway West Road

12/18/10 274 W, 2 I - + 7 - 9

Two alarms at 8900 Midway West Drive off Westgate Road. Engine 23 arriving at a one-story metal industrial building with 47,225 square-feet. Built 1986. Metal fabrication facility, occupied at the time of the incident. Smoking showing and declared a working fire. Raleigh and Durham Highway crews entered structure to determine exactly what was burning. Machinery found on fire. Engine 23 repositioned closer to fire location, outside rear loading dock. Ladder 6 positioned in same location, and deployed for roof access. Replay pumping from Engine 24 and extended supply line from hydrant south on Midway West Road.



Second alarm requested about five minutes into incident. Dispatched 10:09 p.m. Controlled 11:19 p.m. Incident command located on Midway West Drive in front of structure. Medical monitoring and rehab located in parking lot about two blocks south. Fire apparatus staging on Westgate Park Drive, off Westgate Road. EMS staging three blocks south on Midway West Drive. Cause determined as accidental, with hot metal shavings from a grinder igniting, which caught the ventilation system on fire. Units on scene included: E23, E24, E17, E16, Durham Highway E1, E14, E9, E4, Durham Highway E3, L6, L3, R3, R1, B4, B3, B1, A1, C10, C20, C40, C4, C5, EMS 122, EMS 4, EMS 5?, D3, D1, T1. "C" shift working.



See preliminary photos by Mike Legeros. More photos to be posted later. Arrived about 20 minutes into incident. The new camera (Canon 40D) is providing better than the older one for low-night night shots. Helps that Yours Truly is really reading the manual for the first time.

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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment:

[/ Textile](#)

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Caption This Photo / Chief Roof Retires

12/18/10 89 W, 1 I - + 11 - 8

Congratulations to retiring Bay Leaf Fire Chief Ron Roof! He retires with 34 years in the fire service, including 20 years as a member of Bay Leaf Fire Department, and 11 years as Fire Chief. This faux-panoramic photo was made at Friday's lunch at Bay Leaf Station 1. How many collective years of experience are shown here? Not to mention sheer number of past and present fire departments represented! Best of wishes in new adventures, Chief. Signed, professional firefighter wrangler. Click once or twice to enlarge:



Congratulations Chief Roof! I hope you have a great retirement...it was a pleasure working with you and the rest of the BL clan. I couldn't help but notice the similar expressions of an "Iceman" and another member...coincidence? I think not! Happy Holidays to you guys...

Adam Perry ([Email](#)) - 12/18/10 - 14:57

Congrats Chief Roof! Enjoy your retirement.

KC - 12/18/10 - 22:28

Chief Roof, congratulations on your retirement. I have enjoyed serving with you on numerous fire service committees over the years. Your professionalism is beyond reproach. Without question, the fire services in Wake County are better because of your dedicated service. Safe travels for you and your wife.

Ed Brinson - 12/18/10 - 23:13

Best wishes Chief Roof! Again, congratulations on your retirement!

A.C. Rich - 12/19/10 - 11:48

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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Preparing For Your Oral Interview

12/19/10 75 W - + 6 - 9

A reader requests information on preparing for an oral interview. What advice do readers have for someone interviewing for the position of firefighter? And particularly those who have never interviewed before? Beyond dressing nice, of course. Google finds a few resources, such as this [Firehouse.com column](#) and [this page of resources](#) from the Don McNea Fire School. What other resources, or personal advice would you offer? Thanks in advance.

1. Show up on time. Nothing kills an interview like a candidate that's late. Know the exact location (including room number) and time of your interview, then check traffic and parking conditions at that time of day ahead of time.
2. Answer the question that's asked. If you don't understand it, don't be afraid to ask for a repeat – but not on every question.
3. Keep some meat in your answers but don't go on forever. Answers that are too short or too long can sometimes be a problem.
4. Make eye contact; whether it's a board or an individual, this doesn't change.
5. Don't oversell or undersell your qualifications or interest. Just be yourself.
6. Do your homework. It's always nice to know that the candidate has taken some time to learn about the department.
7. Be engaged with the interview process; act interested and connected.
8. Always leave politely and professionally with a handshake.
9. Don't worry too much; everyone has to go through the same process.
10. Repeat #9.

RWECC - 12/19/10 - 18:58

Everything that RWECC has stated plus a few extras.

When they ask the question "Tell us about yourself" dont answer with what your firefighter certifications and other things are. Talk about you, things you like to do if your involved with church activities, sports your family etc. You will have a chance to talk about your fire stuff later in the interview. Answer the question they ask, dont give to much information but also dont short change your answer.

Create a list of questions you think they would most likely ask and go over them. and utmost know as much as you can about the agency your applying for

OBX - 12/19/10 - 20:17

Be prepared to answer this question: Why should you be selected over the other candidates?

AP - 12/19/10 - 20:25

If there is a panel of say 4 or more, do you approach all of them and shake hands?

Candidate - 12/19/10 - 20:56

To further improve your ability to avoid being tardy, arrive within walking distance 30 minutes before your interview. Then spend that 30 minutes relaxing, reading, grabbing a cup of coffee, etc.

Also, try role-playing ahead of the interview. Get a friend to play interviewer. Go somewhere other than your living room. Dress up.

Legeros - 12/19/10 - 22:26

@Candidate,

I recently applied for a job (the one I currently have) and had an interview panel of four people. I already knew all of them, but shook all of their hands both before and after the interview. I don't think that is expected or required, but it is a good thing to do in my opinion. Speaking of which, use a firm hand shake...not too strong but not limp either. Good luck!

AP - 12/19/10 - 22:59

I agree with AP. If it's a panel, you want ALL of them to know you. Also.. leave your cell phone in the car or turn it OFF – not just to vibrate. If you forget and it rings – excuse yourself for a second – turn it off without looking at who's calling – and apologize. Whatever you do, don't leave it ring or answer it even to say you are in an interview. Remember – this is the FD's time you're on; not yours. Finally (at least for this post) keep your social networking clean, before during, and after the hiring process. We can debate this all you want but griping in a blog, or being tagged doing a kegstand on Facebook are not career enhancements. 'Nuf said.

RWECC - 12/20/10 - 09:18

Mike is right, "Dress Up" all to often people wear casual attire to an interview. If your already on the job and this is a promotional interview wear your dress uniform that your department issues to you. Does the military wear street clothes to a promotional interview??? No!!! Be proud to wear that badge this is the best job in the world. This is your one chance to shine and make your impression. Make sure you visit the barber or a salon a couple of days prior to your intevieiw. You would be surprised how many people come to an interview looking like Shaggy from Scooby-Doo. Know as much as you can about the department and the municipality before the process.

Jacot - 12/20/10 - 10:11

Dress up for the interview, yes! Suit and tie! Hawaiian shirts, not acceptable!

Dress up for role playing. Want to practice? Go all out. Dress up for practice.

Legeros - 12/20/10 - 10:16

This past year I have helped a lot of people to obtain the badge. I will be starting my own business this year to help those try to obtain the "Badge". There are many pointers that I can help you with. The one thing that I can truly say is please don't sell yourself short by saying things that you really wouldn't do just to get the job. Example; Question comes at you about "OVERTIME" can you work it. I betcha everyone has told me "YES", but that is a BIG FAT LIE, if you have a family, you are married with family plans, etc., then no you can't work "OVERTIME". So correct answer is, I would love to work overtime but there will come time when I have previous engagements so I will not be able. Thank You.....

John K. Johnson - 12/20/10 - 17:31

Thanks for the tips everyone.

Candidate - 12/21/10 - 16:17

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.

This Morning's Mass Casualty Incident / Highway 64

12/20/10 181 W, 1 I - + 9 - 4

Chain reaction collision between three school activity buses on eastbound Highway 64 at Edinburgh Drive. Dispatched about 10:30 a.m. Occupants included about 113 eighth-graders on a field trip from Asheboro. Cary Fire Department responded with two engines, one ladder, one rescue, and two Battalion Chiefs. EMS second alarm dispatched, along with additional resources. Total of 14 ambulances from Cary, Apex, Wake County, and Six Forks EMS, plus four EMS district chiefs, one EMS chief, one Deputy Medical Directory. Total of 36 patients transported with minor injuries, one adult and 35 students. Other students and adults walked in groups to nearby hotel for shelter. Three transit buses requested. [See photos by Mike Legeros](#). Or news coverage from [WRAL](#), [WTVD](#), and [NBC 17](#).



EMS

14 Ambulances - EMS 51, 9, 42, 41, 52, 4, 124, 3, 14, 121, 123, 1, 32, 43, 6

4 District Chiefs - D5, D2, D1, D4

1 APP - Medic 91

1 Chief - EMS 500

1 Deputy Medical Director - MD-20

1 Medical Evacuation Bus - Evac 1

Chatham County EMS unit and Wake County EMS Truck 1 turned away

Fire

Engine 3, Engine 4

Ladder 3

Rescue-4 Rescue 2

Battalion 1, Battalion 2

Safety Officer 20

Car 2

Other units, corrections?

Strong work, all those on the scene. You don't see one of those every day!

CH100 - 12/21/10 - 19:58

Oh yea forgot SO20 "Safety Officer".

RES2 - 12/21/10 - 20:19

Rescue-2 was on the scene. Rescue 4 was out of service USAR training.

RES2 - 12/21/10 - 20:20

Thanks for the corrections. I should have caught the correct rescue unit, given that I took a close-up of the license plate reading Rescue 2!

Legeros - 12/21/10 - 20:22

Great job by all on scene. As I was monitoring all I could think of is how far we have come Public Safety wise in Central NC. Kudos to all involved from the very top to the just starting volly! :) Awesome work!

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/21/10 - 23:13

isn't SO-20 = Car 6?

rookie - 12/22/10 - 14:03

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

Four Days of Photos

12/21/10 205 W - + 10 - 5

Two major fires, a retirement lunch, a graduation ceremony, and a mass-casualty incident. Total photos around 2,000. Total number of keepers about 600. [Here's a prior posting](#) on Mr. Blogger's workflow. Still having a "problem" with overshooting. So many more photos equals that much longer time spent processing and posting. Need to get leaner and meaner. Or at least leaner.

The new Canon 40D camera body is working super-well in darker conditions. Two night fires and the lower light in the Convention Center did not result in significant impairment. Sample sets were posted for four of the things, with full versions arriving later.

Yesterday's vehicle accident was slightly faster for processing as the pictures were made during daylight and thus the exposures and colors didn't require quite as much work. There were some deadly shadows, however. The light as captured by my cameras is also very harsh. Wasn't entirely happy with the results. But see for yourself...

- [Dec 20 - Cary FD & EMS - Highway 64](#)
- [Dec 19 - Raleigh FD & EMS - Hensley Drive](#) (draft version)
- [Dec 17 - Raleigh FD - Graduation](#)
- [Dec 17 - Raleigh FD & Wake EMS - Midway West Road](#)
- [Dec 17 - Bay Leaf FD - Retirement Lunch](#)

I can't imagine what it would have been like to use film for taking lots of pictures like that. You'd have to be selective about what you photograph, and then wouldn't have any idea how well or bad a new technique was until much later. And spend lots of money on film.

rfburns - 12/21/10 - 12:10

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.

Ladder 1 on Hensley Drive

12/21/10 82 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

While the Fuchsia Terror works on finishing his photos from Sunday night's apartment fire, here's a forthcoming shot of Ladder 4 Ladder 1 from the series. This shot's also heavy on the reds. Part pink, part yellow, part red. Could also apply to a description of a certain someone's shirts! And remember kids, don't wear floral prints to firefighter interviews. Though polka-dotted underwear is probably okay. Perhaps readers will share some brief opinions on that matter. Click to enlarge:



Psst...Hey Mikey, that would be Ladder 1 :)

Oopsy - 12/21/10 - 22:15

Just seein' if folks are paying attention. Yeah, that's it...

Legeros - 12/21/10 - 22:18

FUCHSIA!!!!!!!! YEAH!!!!

A.C. Rich - 12/21/10 - 23:24

Polka-dotted underwear? "Briefs"? HA!

Duda ([Email](#)) - 12/28/10 - 10:38

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Sleeping Firefighter

12/21/10 53 W - + 5 - 7

And while we're running our laugh track, [Dave Statter found this very funny video](#) that demonstrates the acoustic effects of metal cookware when applied in close proximity to the head of a drowsy firefighter. Can't wait to try this at home, when Mrs. Blogger is falling asleep on the couch!

Please, please, (for your own health)... don't try this on Mrs. Blogger.

A.C. Rich - 12/21/10 - 23:26

looked like sta 12 on Dekalb ave..could be wrong but the tile and kitchen looked the same

J.Boggs - 12/23/10 - 15:52

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Last Night's Two Alarms / Grinding Stone Drive

12/22/10 163 W, 1 I - + 8 - 6

Two alarms at [4644 Grinding Stone Drive](#). Engine 19 arriving at a two-story, wood-frame, six-unit condominium building with approximately 12,000 square-feet. Built 1974. Fire showing through roof of end unit. Interior operations started. Battalion 1 arrived and upgraded to major working fire. Crews continued with interior lines until withdrawn due to deteriorating conditions. Defensive operations started with Ladder 2, operating reserve platform ladder, and hand lines both in front and rear of structure. Command post in front of building. Staging on Walden Pond Drive. Medical monitoring and rehab on Grinding Stone Drive. Two hydrants used. Ten people displaced. One firefighter received minor burns. Dispatched 2:24 a.m. Controlled 3:30 a.m. Crews on scene through the morning. First alarm: E19, E15, E11, L2, R1, B1, EMS 5. Working fire: E9, A1, C10, C20. Second alarm: E27, E16, E22, L5, R2, B2, EMS 15, D1, T1. Also on scene: C40, C3. "B" shift. [See photos by Mike Legeros.](#)



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

Chicago Stockyards Fire, December 1910

12/23/10 1532 W - + 10 - 4

Yesterday's tragedy in Chicago, where a building collapse killed two firefighters, occurred 100 years to the day after 21 members of the Chicago Fire Department were killed when a six-story wall collapsed at the [Union Stock Yards](#).

That was the greatest loss of life in the history of CFD, which has seen [658 firefighters and paramedics perish on duty](#). It was also the nation's largest loss of big-city firefighters until the events of September 11, 2001.

Two days earlier, the *Chicago Sun-Times* [published a retrospective of the event](#). Read more about yesterday and the retrospectives at [Fire Truck Blog](#). There's also excellent coverage of yesterday's events at [Statter911](#).

Below is an account of the 1910 fire that appeared in the Muscatine Journal in Iowa, on December 22, 1910. It's from the [GenDiasters site](#).

FIRE MARSHALL HORAN OF CHICAGO, AIDE, AND 22 FIREMEN PERISH IN THE FLAMES.

FIRE DESTROYS BUILDINGS OF MORRIS & CO. PLANT IN UNION STOCKYARDS.

LOSS NEAR \$2,000,000.

EXPLOSION OF AMMONIA PIPE IS CAUSE OF TERRIBLE CONFLAGRATION -- WALLS OF BUILDING FALL CARRYING MANY DOWN TO DEATH.

HORAN AND AIDE LOST.

CHIEF MARSHAL AND ASSISTANT LEADING THEIR MEN, PERISH WHEN WALL TOPPLES OVER -- FIRE AT LAST CONTROLLED.

Bulletin.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 22. -- Late in the day the announcement was made that the dead would not number over twenty-four, consisting of Fire Marshal HORAN, Second Assistant Fire MARSHAL BURROUGHS, nineteen city firemen, two private firemen of Morris & Company, and STEPHEN LEEN, aged 16, a yard clerk for the Chicago Junction railroad. Ten bodies have been recovered. It was erroneously stated earlier that the chief's body had been recovered. The fire is now under control.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 22. -- Chief Fire Marshal HORAN, Assistant Chief BURROUGHS, Lieutenant FITZGERALD and nearly forty other firemen were killed, and a property loss of a million and a half dollars, resulted from the destruction of the meat warehouse of Morris & Co., by fire at the Union Stockyards this morning.

Entire Crews Among Dead.

It is now thought that the dead may reach forty. The entire crews of Engine Companies 51 and 53 are said to be among the dead. In addition, six members of Company 29 and some of No. 48 were killed. The hope of the firemen and hundreds of admirers of Fire Marshal HORAN that the fire fighter and his men had not perished was practically lost when Battalion Chief LANCY told of seeing the marshal and BURROUGHS together with eighteen of twenty men go down beneath the falling wall.

Tells of Death of Firemen.

"Chief HORAN was in front of the pipemen," said LANCY, "and BURROUGHS a short distance behind him directing the work when the crash came. I know just where they are and are sure they had no chance of escape. Dozens of firemen saw the same situation and many of them ran to the pile, almost frantic, and began throwing bricks away with their hands. They were like so many coals of fire and any work of that sort was useless. I ordered them back to fighting the flames in the hope that the fire might be stopped in time to find a way to rescue the poor fellows we saw go down to what seemed certain death. I was determined to make every effort within human power to save the men, but the conditions of the the building made it suicide for the rest of us to try to enter it."

Explosion Starts It.

The fire started from an explosion of an ammonia pipe, and spread with such rapidity that the entire building was in flames almost on the instant. A general alarm brought all the available fire-fighting apparatus to the scene. Marshal HORAN arrived

immediately and took up the task of directing his men. With Battalion Chief BURROUGHS he led the men to the east entrance of the building and the battle against the flames was taken up from beneath the heavy wooden canopy which hung menacingly above them.

Apparently not noticing their danger the firemen crowded beneath this death trap. Suddenly with the roar of an explosion the canopy and tumbling tons of bricks buried the chief of the department, together with more than a score of his aides. The firemen learning the fate of their chief and his men fought frantically to control the fire at the spot where the disaster occurred. It was hoped that the victims could be taken out and carried to the hospital but inquiry brought the information that such was not the case.

The men attacked the piles of red hot debris to rescue their comrades and dug with desperation with bare hands until ordered away by officers to stop the spread of flames which threatened the entire district.

A graphic story of the collapse of the east wall which carried the men down to death beneath the wood covering is told by Lieut. MACKAY, who was leading a company of firemen from the top of the canopy.

Escapes Were Miraculous.

MACKAY said he saw the walls bulge and immediately shouted a warning. At the same time he jumped from the platform himself and was followed immediately by ten or twelve of his men. The escapes of these were miraculous. "I was in charge of the firemen fighting the flames from the railroad tracks. I saw one man fall near where the men who were caught fell and catching hold of his leg dragged him on to the railroad tracks and saved him. Then my men and I rushed to save others, but our way was blocked by falling ruins and the clouds of dust and debris."

Fire Marshal's Body Recovered.

The first body taken from the ruins about 8 o'clock was that of GEORGE MURAWESKI, a pipeman of Company 49. Assistant Chief SEYFERLICH assumed supreme command, and under his direction the battle continued. At 9 o'clock the bodies of Captains COLLINS of Company 59 and DOYLE of Company 39 were taken from the ruins by the police. Half an hour later Chief HORAN's body was recovered. At 10 o'clock the fire was not controlled and Acting Chief SEYFERLICH was alarmed at the situation. The fire spread to a three-story building 300 feet square almost adjoining the four-story structure in which the fire originated. In the second burning building there are a large number of ammonia pipes which are liable to explode.

The loss is now estimated at \$1,500,000.

MRS. HORAN Prostrated.

Marshal HORAN was married six years ago. He is the father of four children, the youngest of whom is two years of age. The word of his death was kept from MRS. HORAN by the firemen, who notified her by telephone that he had met with an accident. Later it became evident that the chief was surely dead and that it would be better to let her know the truth.

MRS. HORAN swooned in her Ashland boulevard home and was unable further to continue the conversation.

HORAN assumed command of the fire department after the death of Marshall MUSHAM, who had succeeded CAMPION, who took up the reins laid down by the veteran DENNIS SWEENIE.

Hunt For Bodies Begins.

A flood of water was poured on the pile of brick covering the ill-fated firemen and by 10:30 it was cool enough for the firemen to resume the hunt for their comrades.

As the recovered bodies were brought out, mangled, scorched, shapeless masses, the coroner's jury, which had been impannelled, forgot its duty of inquiry and joined with the feverish effort of hundreds of civilians who were endeavoring to lend a hand to the firemen.

Newspaper extras carried the news of the danger or death that had visited the firemen and relatives and friends came in throngs to the fire.

With the arrival of anxious friends came devices for clearing away the pile of smouldering wreckage. A wrecking engine of the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad brought derrick, toppling a string of box cars into a ditch as it came. A road scraper attached to one of the derricks cables scooped up great masses of bricks, the scorched firemen having pushed the great scoop into the brick heap.

DEAD, MISSING AND INJURED IN BIG FIRE.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 22. -- The known dead in the fire horror here today in which it is believed forty firemen lost their lives are: Chief Fire Marshal JAMES HORAN.

Assistant Marshal WILLIAM J. BURROUGHS.
PATRICK E. COLLINS, captain of engine company No. 59.
DENNIS DOYLE, captain of engine company No. 39.
JOSEPH MURAWESKI, pipeman.
CHARLES MOORE, truckman.
STEPHEN LEEN, aged 16, yard clerk, Chicago Junction railway.

The Missing.

The missing are:

THOMAS O'CONNOR, pipeman.
JAMES FOSTER, pipeman.
JOSEPH OSBORNE, driver.
J. H. BEHRENS, driver.
NICHOLS CRANE, truckman.
CHARLES BERKERY, lieutenant.
FRANK WATERS.
CHARLES SWEENIE.
WILLIAM J. DAILEY.
PETER J. KILL.
WILLIAM T. WEBER.
JOHN F. DUBACH, lieutenant.
CHARLES COONEY.
JOHN G. LINK.
JOSEPH P. MULHERN.
FRANCIS P. EAGAN.
JOHN J. McLARY.
JAMES J. BANNON.
JOHN HEILFELT.
WILLIAM T. MURPHY.

The Injured.

The list of injured includes:

JOHN P. KASSENBACK, fatally.
EDWARD OEHLER, fatally.
JOHN O'LEARY, fatally.
MARTIN J. FITZGERALD, fatally.
ANTONE HELLAND.
JOHN CARNEY.
A. D. LANNON.
JOSEPH MACKEY.
JAMES McGRATH.
JOHN MILLER.
WILLIAM WALSH, lieutenant.
M. M. BOLLMAN.
EUGENE MILLER.
M. J. SANDERS, policeman.
JAMES HENDRICHS, policeman.

Very Sad day this past week. My heart goes out to the Families of the Chicago Fire Dept. My Great Grandfather was Lt. Joseph Mackey who fought the 1910 Union Stockyard Fire, is referenced in this article, and according to my Uncle and Mother was Chief Horan's Driver.

Deadliest Fires For Firefighters (Again)

07/01/13 645 W, 1 I - + 13 - 8

July 1, 2013

In the wake of the terrible news of nineteen wildland firefighters killed in Arizona last night, let's revisit this posting for a historical perspective on the deadliest fires for firefighters in our nation's history. They've been added below, but the entire list warrants a review. Also found this [NPFA web site](#), which we'll incorporate into the mix. Their numbers don't quite match in a couple places, so we'll check, compare, and revise as needed. Such as Devil's Broom and Texas City.

December 23, 2010

More from Chicago, where our thoughts and prayers continue. Stories about the December 1910 stock yard fire have repeatedly cited it one of the deadliest days for American firefighters. Curious about that citation, here's a bit of research done via Google. Below are greatest losses of firefighters in American history. Dates date to the 1850s. Wildfires are included, including a two-day inferno that took the lives of 78 firefighters in 1910. Sources are at the bottom, notably a list compiled by Hank Przybylowicz and as found by Google.

- 343 died – Sep. 11, 2001 – Manhattan, NY – World Trade Center collapse after terrorist attacks.
- 78 died – Aug. 20-21, 1910 – Great Fire of 1910 – Forest fire in Washington, Idaho, Montana - Includes Devil's Broom Fire.
- 30 died – Apr. 16, 1947 – Texas City, TX – Ship explosion after fire.
- ~~29 died – Oct. 3, 1933 – Los Angeles, CA – Griffith Park Fire, wildfire.~~ (see below)
- 21 died – Dec. 22, 1910 – Chicago, IL – Wall collapse at meat packing plant.

- 19 died - Jun. 30, 2013 – Yarnell, AZ – Yarnell Hill Fire, wildfire.
- 19 died – Jul. 29, 1956 – Sun Ray, TX – Oil and gas refinery fire.
- 15 died – Aug. 21, 1937 – Shoshone National Forest, WY – Blackwater Fire, wildfire.
- 15 died – Jul. 9, 1953 – Alder Creek, CA – Rattlesnake Fire, wildfire.

- 14 died - Jul. 10, 1893 - Chicago, IL - Building collapse during fire at World's Fair.
- 14 died – Jul. 9, 1994 – Glenwood, CO – Wildfire.
- 13 died – Mar. 17, 1890 – Indianapolis, IN – Building collapse at three-alarm fire.
- 13 died – Dec. 22, 1910 – Philadelphia, PA- Building collapse and secondary collapse at two-alarm fire.
- 13 died – Mar. 10, 1941 – Brockton, MA – Roof collapse at two-alarm fire.
- 13 died – Aug. 5, 1949 – Mann Gulch, MT – Mann Gulch Fire, wildfire.

- 12 died – Oct. 28, 1954 – Philadelphia, PA – Chemical explosion.
- 12 died – Oct. 17, 1966 – Floor collapse at five-alarm fire.
- 12 died – Nov. 1, 1966 – Los Angeles County, CA – Wildfire.
- 12 died – Jul. 5, 1973 – Kingman, AZ – Propane tank car explosion at gas plant fire.

- 11 died – Apr. 25, 1854 – Manhattan, NY – Building collapse at fire.
- 11 died – Sep. 6, 1896 – Benton Harbor, MI – Wall collapse at opera house fire.
- 11 died – Nov., 1966 – San Diego County, CA – Wildfire.

- 10 died – Jul. 9, 1850 – Philadelphia, PA – Explosions and collapses during great fire.
- 10 died – Oct. 9, 1857 – Chicago, IL – Building collapse at general-alarm fire.
- 10 died – Jul. 9, 1943 – Chicago, IL – Roof collapse at four-alarm fire.
- 10 died – Jul. 23, 1984 – Romeoville, IL – Propane explosion at oil refinery fire.

Sources:

- Hank Przybylowicz's list of multiple firefighter fatality incidents, [archived on this web site](#) .
- [National Park Service timeline of large fires](#).
- [World's Columbian Exposition Fire, Chicago: July 10, 1893](#).

- [Wikipedia Entry on the Texas City Disaster.](#)

Corrections:

- Griffiths Park Fire, 1933. Park workers killed, not firefighters. See [this article](#) and this [other article](#). Thanks to reader Patrick M. for pointing out!

Additions and Annotations (July 1, 2003)

- Griffiths Park Fire - Above list deletes the incident, as park workers not firefighters were killed. See above correction. [This NFPA list](#) includes the workers as firefighter fatalities.
- Texas City explosion and fire - Above list cites 30 firefighter fatalities. [This NFPA list](#) cites 27 firefighter fatalities.
- [The Great 1910 Fire of Idaho, Montana, and Washington](#) - Web page cites 92 fatalities, still looking to determine how many were firefighters. Above list cites 78 firefighter fatalities. [This NFPA list](#) cites 86 firefighter fatalities in Devil's Broom Fire in Silverton, ID, on August 20, 1910.

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Mystery Photo

12/24/10 27 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

What are we looking at here, this Christmas Eve? Their gear was stowed by the apparatus with care...



The Capt. side rear door (open) on RFE-1.

firedriver - 12/24/10 - 19:17

My vote is E-13...rear door on Officer side.

Silver - 12/24/10 - 20:21

Id go with Capt side rear door on E1, looks like a space between E1 and L4

Engine 19 - 12/24/10 - 20:42

For extra credit, what color Hawaiian shirt was the photographer wearing?!

Legeros - 12/24/10 - 20:53

umm...every color would be my guess.

firedriver - 12/24/10 - 21:33

Good point about the spacing...I'll guess red and green????

Silver - 12/24/10 - 21:56

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

White Christmas

12/25/10 248 W, 1 I - + 7 - 8

See what happens when you dream about something? So what sort of snow history have we experienced in North Carolina? Greatest daily snowfall was 29 inches at Mt. Mitchell in 2001. Greatest monthly total was 56.5 inches in Boone in 1960. Data from [this other NOAA site](#).

In Raleigh, the record snowfall amount for Christmas Day is 0.4 inches in 1947. Our coldest Christmas was 19 degrees in 1983. Our warmest was 58 degrees in 1964. Data from [this other NOAA page](#). We probably won't wear a tropical shirt if the weather drops into 20s.

As for snow and ice storms in Wake County, [this NC climate center database](#) records 34 events between 1993 and 2010. And WRAL looked back at [recent Triangle snowstorms in this story](#). But Google doesn't readily find any historical perspectives on snowfalls and snow events in Raleigh. We'll see what the day brings. Gotta have something to work on, even on Christmas!

As for the song "White Christmas," it was written by Irving Berlin in 1940. The version sung by Bing Crosby is the best-selling single of all time, with 50 million copies or more estimated as sold worldwide. The song's original bars are often dropped in records, and starts "The sun in shining, the grass is green..."

Other versions of the song include Frank Sinatra (1944), Perry Como (1947), Ernest Tubb (1949), The Drifters (1964), Elvis Presley (1957), Mitch Miller (1961), Doris Day (1964), Dean Martin (1966), Barbra Streisand (1967), and Otis Redding (1968). [Read more from Wikipedia](#). Happy holidays, everyone!



Here we go, major snowstorms since 1948: <http://raleighwx.americanwx.com/raleigh...>

Legeros - 12/25/10 - 10:06

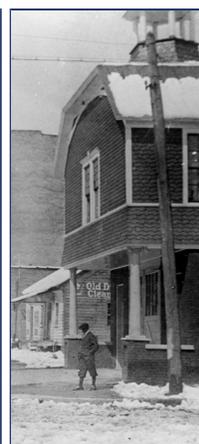
time to put the chains on the trucks.

crs - 12/26/10 - 00:07

Snow and Station 3, 1915

12/25/10 113 W, 3 I - + 14 - 2

This picture from the North Carolina State Archives (N66.2.47) was made in April 1915, after the city's worst blizzard on record. It was taken from the corner of Blount and Hargett streets, and shows old Station 3 on the right. It's also a rare view of the station's cupola, which is rarely shown in other photos. In one of two close-ups, the firefighters are standing on what looks like a fallen telephone pole. The two-story station was built in 1898 for the Victor Fire Company. It closed on July 26, 1951, when Engine 3 relocated to East Street. It was demolished the next year. Click **once or twice** to enlarge:



Courtesy North Carolina State Archives

Name: (real name preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes

I tried dialing 414, 348, and 642 and did not get an answer at any of them. I guess they are still trying to restore service :)

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/26/10 - 11:17

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 and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Send Your Snow Pictures, Update #2

12/28/10 73 W, 10 I - + 11 - 5

While waiting on the red stuff, send pictures of the white stuff. [Just mail me](#). Here's Station 16, photographed during a newspaper run this morning. Send your best shots and we'll compile and post.



12:41 p.m. update. Left to right, New Bern Station 1, Chapel Hill Station 3, Raleigh Ladder 1.

Tuesday update. Left to right: Apex (2), Raleigh Station 4 (2), Falls.

Click to enlarge:



Did you get any pictures from the wreck on Honeycutt?

freezing - 12/26/10 - 22:12

Yes. But the pictures that I want to see are from Apex, and their fully-involved garage fire this morning...

Legeros - 12/26/10 - 22:18

channel 5 has Sky 5 pics of the fire in Apex. House looks like a total loss. Glad the resident was rescued and is okay.

charlie - 12/27/10 - 00:45

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'?

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

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

Caldwell County Apparatus Rolls Over on Christmas Day

12/27/10 78 W - + 8 - 3

[Firefighter Close Calls had a short report](#) on Christmas Day about an apparatus rollover in Caldwell County. A piece of apparatus from the Valmead Fire Department overturned on Valway Road. The rig was reportedly upside down in a creek, and with at least one firefighter transported in unknown condition. We've been web-searching since, but no news reports have surfaced. We'll hope for the best for our friends to the west.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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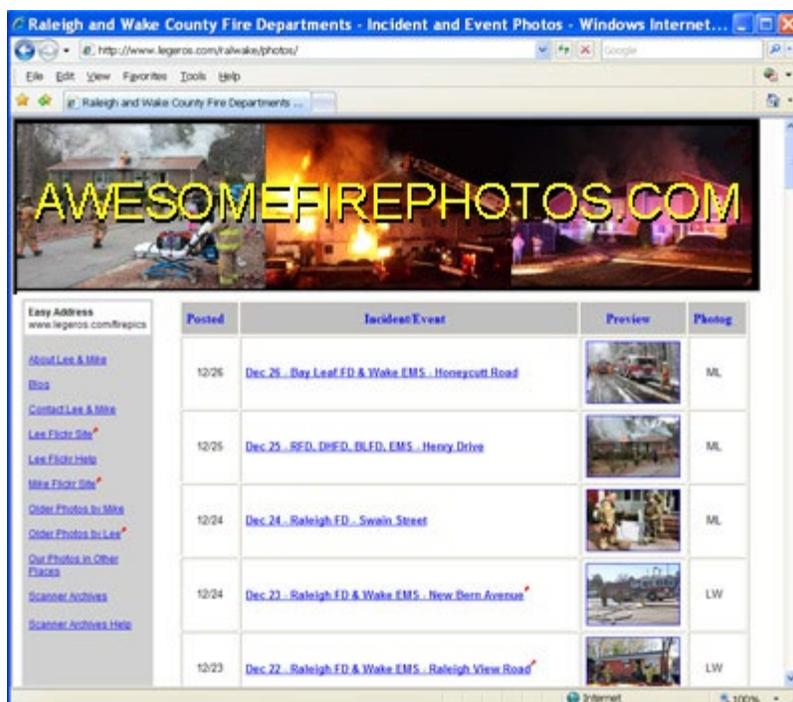
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Big Banners on Web Sites

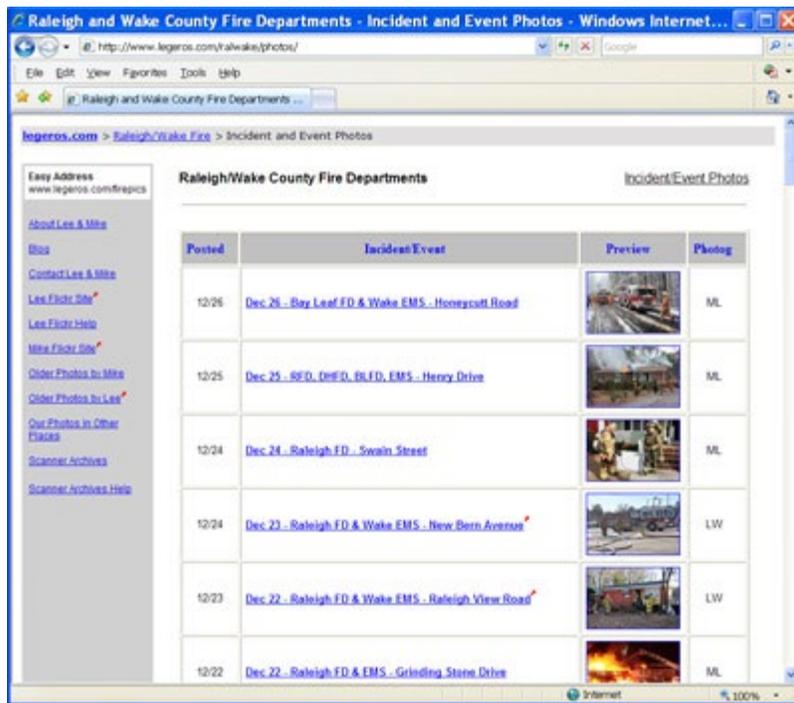
12/27/10 65 W, 2 I - + 10 - 6

Don't use them. They might look cool. They might tout your design skills. But they're basically without function. The readers have to scroll past them each and every time they visit your site. Don't make them work harder. Capiche?

Horrid:



Acceptable:



Discuss or refute as desired.

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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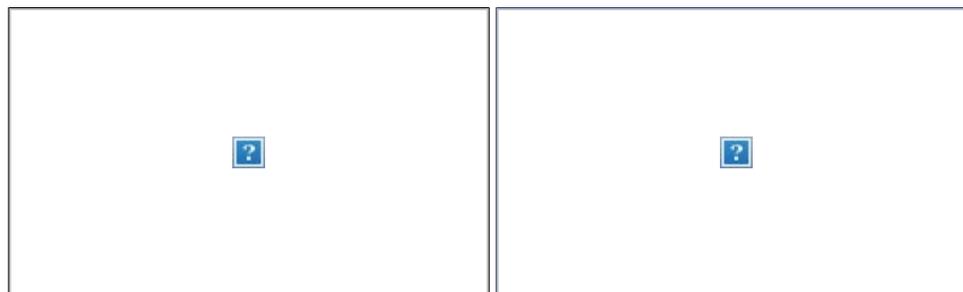
Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

People at the Mangel Fire, 1981

12/27/10 71 W, 2 I - + 11 - 2

Transcribing some notes sitting on my desk. They'll best archived here, until recorded elsewhere. Reference [News & Observer photos](#) from the Mangel Building fire of 1981. Left image shows Herman Jones (left) and Robert Peacock (right) in foreground, and M. Johnson between them in background. Right image shows Asst. Chief Norman Walker in white t-shirt. Click to see larger versions of each.



News & Observer photos

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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment: [/ Textile](#)

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Photo

Caption This Photo

12/27/10 52 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

Some tropical warmth for a sunny snowy Monday. And no mystery to this location! Time to step away from the computer and raid the garage. There must be something that be converted into a sled. Large cardboard box. Giant plastic lid. Something.



My what a big eye you have.

Rob Mitchell - 12/28/10 - 14:24

Lens Crafters offers new Hawaiian shirt pattern contacts.

Just me - 12/28/10 - 15:17

asymmetric

Joe Brady ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/28/10 - 18:39

"objects" in mirror are closer than they appear

Pierce - 12/28/10 - 19:16

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Yesterday's House Fire in Apex

12/27/10 84 W - + 10 - 8

[NBC17 has posted footage](#) of yesterday's house fire in Apex. Arriving units found the garage fully-involved at 102 Chapel Valley Road. One-story, wood-frame structure with 1,326 square-feet. Built 2000.

Defensive operations including aerial stream were subsequently started. Witnesses reported small fire in garage, followed by explosion, notes [this WRAL story](#).

That makes how many working fires over Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Christmas Day after? Two in Cary. One in Apex. One in Fuquay-Varina. One in Raleigh/Bay Leaf. What others?

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Charlotte Apparatus Accident Injures Three Firefighters

12/28/10 81 W, 1 I - + 11 - 3

[FireNews has posted information](#) and story links about yesterday morning's apparatus accident in Charlotte. Three fighters were treated and released with minor injuries after the single-vehicle accident. A fourth firefighter aboard was not injured. Engine 38 was responding to a medical call when the apparatus slide into a tree at the intersection of Westinghouse and Shopton roads. The three year-old engine sustained "significant damage." The incident occurred about 8:55 a.m.


WSCO-TV photo

so what happens when there is an apparatus accident and the crew is transported to the hospital. obviously the engine is out of service and they will put a reserve in its place. Does the crew return to duty after their release from the hospital, or do they go home for the day. Does the Engine company remain out of service until the next shift comes in to work the following day. Does the department reassign on duty personnel to the apparatus for the remainder of the day. Does the fire department cover the station's territory with the next closest truck.

charlie - 12/29/10 - 11:22

I can't speak to this particular incident (I've been off, and haven't talked to anyone about it yet), but typically for CFD, a move up company will cover the response area during the incident so there is no lapse in coverage. The move up company will be in place until the original company can return to service in a reserve apparatus. As far as the crew goes, if they go to the hospital, they more than likely will not return to duty that shift. If they don't go to the hospital, it just depends. If a new crew is needed, a crew will be put together using on duty personnel (if we are overstaffed that day) or called in for overtime. A reserve apparatus will be put into service with the make shift crew. Our reserves have hose on them already, so only loose equipment, and gear needs to be transferred over to the reserve. This can be usable equipment from the wrecked rig or replacement from our logistics division.

Rides An Engine - 12/29/10 - 12:15

Get well soon brothers!!!!!!Glade ya'll walked away!God was with all of you!!!!!!

Jason Lane - 12/29/10 - 16:29

Name: (real name)

Remember personal info?

Gaston County Firefighter Critically Injured Responding to Call

12/29/10 142 W, 1 I - + 10 - 10

[Firefighter Close Calls reports](#) that Firefighter Clay Thornburg, 17, of the Hugh's Pond Fire Department in Gaston County was injured last night while responding in his personal vehicle to a structure fire. His pickup truck ran off the road on Hephzibah Church Road at 10:37 p.m. The truck struck a culvert and flipped five times. He was found and extricated by members of his department, and transported to Cleveland Regional Medical Center, and airlifted to Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte. He is reportedly in a coma and with critical injuries. Updates on his condition can be found at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/claythornburg>. Thoughts and prayers can also be posted to that site. The *Gaston Gazette* has also [posted a story](#), though absent the fire department connection.



Thanks for the heads up on this Mike. It is sometimes tough to catch everything that happens state wide. Thoughts & Prayers are sent this young kids way.

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/30/10 - 00:09

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Dogs Rescued From Selma Breeding Facility

12/30/10 102 W, 1 I - + 12 - 6

There are plenty of news reports on yesterday's fire at a dog breeding facility in Johnston County. [This Selma News story](#) included the below photo of the structure that burned. Crews rescued most of the 45 animals from the building, which was reported ablaze about 8:30 a.m. Initial estimates were placed at 150 inside the structure, but was revised. The incident and the issue of breeding is apparently a passionate one, evident by the 278 comments so far [posted on this WRAL story](#). More are probably coming, once the forums are reactivated at 8:00 a.m.



Selma News photo

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Paperwork

12/30/10 39 W, 1 I - + 9 - 6

Scene from yesterday's gas alarm activation at a research laboratory on the North Carolina State University Centennial Campus. [Read the News & Observer story](#). Or see some [scene photos by 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](#))

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

Harris Plant Ends Fire Patrols

12/30/10 91 W - + 10 - 5

Read that story from [yesterday's News & Observer](#). After five years of prep, the nuclear power plant is replacing its human fire monitors with an automated system. People watching for fires. The oldest method of fire detection. What other institutions or agencies still use same? And what have been some historical examples? I recall a military veteran telling of one person always required to stay awake in their barracks, as a guard against forming fires. This was pre-smoke detector technology. Perhaps it continued into modern era?

Doesn't Glaxo have a fire brigade?

Mike - 12/30/10 - 08:11

Fire brigade does not necessarily equal fire watch. The Harris Plant has people who walk the entire plant, watching/looking/sniffing for fires.

Literal fire watch.

They also have a fire brigade, of personnel trained to respond to fires. They even had apparatus at one time.

Fire brigades are pretty common.

But human fire detection, and dedicated people therein? That question's got me curious.

Legeros - 12/30/10 - 08:13

Well, the RBC center has fire watch personnel during events....they are takes with walking/watching/looking/sniffing for fires.

During the late 1990's the record keeping company Iron Mountain maintained a fire watch at all of its facilities in the country due to the arson fire in NJ.

A.S. Meier - 12/30/10 - 13:39

In other jurisdictions in which I have served it was often common practice for an occupancy to post a temporary "fire watch" if their alarm system had to be disabled for any period of time. While not normally in place, it was required for high-risk hazards to post a human being to conduct rounds until such time as normal service was restored.

WRECC - 12/30/10 - 17:33

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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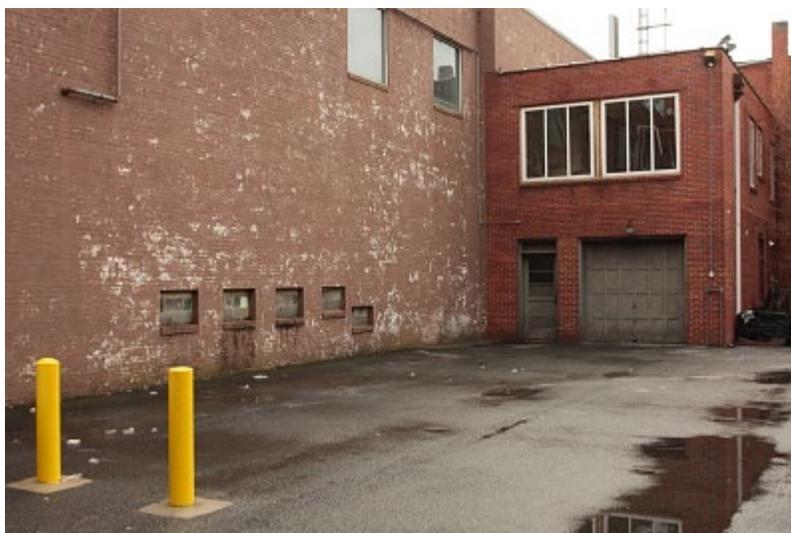
To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

Behind Station 1

12/30/10 181 W, 2 I - + 12 - 8

Here's a rare sight behind Station 1 in downtown Raleigh, the incoming parking spaces vacated way before nightfall. The reason? Ice removal. See, there's limited parking behind the station. So every night, the outgoing shift moves their private vehicles to the other side of the lot. Off-camera to the right. The incoming shift takes the area shown below. (Station 1 is home to three fire companies, one administrative person, and three information technology people.)

The building in the back is the 1942 alarm house. It was the first structure constructed on the Dawson Street site and completed eleven years before Station 1 was built. It originally housed the equipment of the electric telegraph fire alarm system, cost \$3,500 to build, and used materials from old Station 1 on West Morgan Street. The garage housed the fire alarm repair truck. Later uses of the structure included housing the fire department dispatchers, storage space for the Services Division, and office space of the Data Management team. See [past and present photos](#) of that building. Or [read more about its history](#) .



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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Horne Street Postal Station Closing

12/31/10 132 W, 1 I - + 15 - 7

Sign of the times and a tough economy. As [today's News & Observer reports](#), the Horne Street post office located across the street from North Carolina State University is closing. Today is the last day for receiving mail at rented boxes. In a few more weeks, the one-person facility closes. Business has dropped sharply in recent years. (Not to mention the general failure of that section of the Hillsborough Street corridor to flourish lo these last couple of decades. Here's a neat [Independent Weekly article](#) about that.) Students, faculty, and folks living in the area will have to walk, ride, or drive to the Cameron Village post office on Oberlin Road. The Horne Street station has been operational for 60+ years.



Shawn Rocco/News & Observer photo

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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When Irresistible Force Meets Immovable Object

12/31/10 123 W - + 14 - 4

[Shamelessly swiped from Statter911](#), who posted this video of a New York City transit bus driver seemingly unwilling to move over (or at least get moving) for FDNY Engine 276. Keep an eye on his posted version, as the user comments ought to be good. And for those riding trucks with electronic sirens, does watching this one get you thinking about reaching for the microphone?

Talk about tough times, the Big Apple's been bruised this week with snow-clearing issues. Massive delays and outright closures on streets, on subway lines, and at airports. Accusations of slowdown tactics by the plow operators, in retribution for budget cuts. And just general outrage, as [this New York Times article](#) historically reviews.

after watching the Video, the Bus Driver should be fired. the fire fighters even goty out of the rig and told him twice to move the bus. common courtesy says get out of the way of Emergency Apparatus. In fact here in NC it is a state law that says you have to pull to the right and let them pass as long as they have their Emergency Lights activated.

charlie - 12/31/10 - 15:21

To add to the mess, the mandatory furlough days the state governments enacted just happen to fall on Monday, the day after the blizzard.

I drove up to NJ on Sunday during the blizzard, had the joy of shoveling around 30" of snow Monday morning. With the budget crunch, the governing bodies put mandatory days off without pay into action. It just happened that one of those days was Monday. My Honda Accord made it the 13.5 hours (usually 7.5 hours), 15 mph was the top speed by everyone on the NJ Turnpike, all the way until a block away from my brothers house where I "ran aground" on an unplowed street. I'll send some pics, hopefully Mikey will post them.

It figures the one year I don't have 4wd, I need it!! Anyone want to buy an Accord?

Silver - 01/01/11 - 20:17

15mph top speed on a NJ turnpike? But the yanks are always telling the hicks that they know how to drive on the stuff. Ha!

RescueRanger - 01/01/11 - 21:28

Trust me, that was all you could do. Heavy snow with 50/60 mph winds made it very, very difficult.

Silver - 01/02/11 - 00:21

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Yesterday's Police Chase and Crash in Charlotte

12/31/10 102 W, 1 I - + 13 - 7

[WSCO-TV has posted](#) dramatic images and footage from yesterday's police chase and crash in Charlotte that injured two CMPD police officers. Officer Keith R. Trietley was extricated from his cruiser after struck head-on by the suspect's vehicle. The crash occurred on The Plaza near Sugar Creek Road and ended the chase. Officer Richard E. Grubb was also transported. His cruiser was rammed twice during the pursuit. The chase started about 2:30 p.m. The officers were transported to Carolinas Medical Center for treatment of non-life threatening injuries. Read this morning's [Charlotte Observer story](#).



WSCO-TV photo

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Updated: Bay Leaf Firefighter Fred Stephenson Passes Away

01/01/11 242 W - + 6 - 4

From the Bay Leaf Fire Department:

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Firefighter Fred "Pogo" Stephenson on Thursday December 30, 2010. Fred had a long career in the fire service and was an active member of the Bay Leaf Volunteer Fire Department in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Fred began his career with the Cary Rural Fire Department (Yrac) in 1963 where he worked his way up to the position of Fire Chief. He later joined Six Forks Road Volunteer Fire Department in 1968 where he held the positions of Firefighter, Captain and Assistant Chief.

Mr. Stephenson continued his fire department career as a full-time Captain with the Bay Leaf Volunteer Fire Department when the Six Forks Fire Department and Bay Leaf Fire Department merged in July 2002. He retired from full-time service in January 2004 but continued working part-time with the department as a driver until March 2010.

Fred was the senior of the only three generation family of active firefighters within the Bay Leaf Fire Department. He continued his service to his community as a volunteer firefighter until his passing.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

Saturday update:

Arrangements for Fred Stephenson:

Visitation

Sunday, January 2, 2011 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Bryan-Lee Funeral Home

[831 Wake Forest Road](#)

Raleigh, NC 27604

Funeral Liturgy

Monday, January 3, 2011 at 11 a.m.

Hayes Barton United Methodist Church

[2209 Fairview Road](#)

Raleigh, NC 27608

Graveside service to follow at the [Oakwood Cemetery](#) in Raleigh.

God bless the Stephenson family! You are in our thoughts and prayers!

Jason Lane - 12/31/10 - 11:15

Enjoyed passing the time at Bayleaf station 3, sitting on the back of the old dodge brushtruck listening to Pogo talk about 'copters, the fire service and life. Our loss but Heavens gain, i'm sure he is telling the angels the stories now. Prayers go out to the Stephenson family and Bayleaf Fire Department. KC

gen3fire - 12/31/10 - 13:42

My Prayers go out to the Stephenson Family. may their hearts be comforted by God during this time of sorrow.

charlie - 12/31/10 - 15:12

Yesterday's Major Fire in Rocky Mount

12/31/10 69 W, 1 I - + 8 - 8

[The Rocky Mount Telegram](#) has [posted](#) some strong photos from last night's major fire at [122 Howard Street](#). Crews fought fire for several hours at the two-story commercial structure in the heart of downtown Rocky Mount. Readers to the east, feel free to add incident details or even just a run down of the companies on scene.



Emma Tannenbaum/Rocky Mount Telegram photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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