

Legeros Fire Blog Archives - 2011 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.

Just a Bunch of FOOLS

07/07/11 108 W, 1 I - + 5 - 6

The Capital Area FOOLS conducted their monthly meeting last night at the regular location, Napper Tandy's Irish Pub in downtown Raleigh. That's the local chapter of the [Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society](#). Among the topics of discussion was planning for the First Annual Brotherhood Bash during the state firefighter's convention in August. That event's to be co-sponsored by the [Capital Area FOOLS](#) and the [Wake County Firefighters Association](#). More information forthcoming, both about the bash and other things in the works for area firefighters. Here's a picture from last night. Would you buy a used car from these people? Click to enlarge:



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'?

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

Bat Mobiles

07/07/11 43 W, 2 I - + 9 - 2

Four, count 'em, four Breath Analyzer Testing Mobile Units parked behind an office building on Six Forks Road. Plus three speed bumps, if you exit onto Milbrook Road. Makes and models unknown. Please don't drink and drive. Click to enlarge:



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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Durham Tech Gets Bethesda Engine

07/08/11 137 W, 1 I - + 8 - 8

This morning's *Herald-Sun* has the story of a Bethesda engine that's been donated to [Durham Technical Community College](#), for students of their fire academy and fire technology programs. The 1983 Sutphen pumper has only 41,000 miles, and originally cost about \$125,000. The truck was a reserve unit for the [Bethesda Fire Department](#). Or as they are formally named, Bethesda Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. They love them Sutphens in Durham county and Durham city. Wonder if we'll ever see them in Wake County? Anyway, back to the story. The college has operated a fire academy since 2000 ([here's a flyer](#) from the 2011 academy), and a continuing education fire protection curriculum for over 30 years. Below are pictured Fire Chief Robert Andrews (left) and Clint Briggs, who heads the college's fire academy program. [Read the story.](#)



Herald-Sun 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

Beverage-Based Screen Names

07/08/11 161 W - + 8 - 3

For those keeping score at home, below are the beverage-based screen names posted as part of the discussion about [Raleigh's house fire on Basil Drive](#).

1. Coffee Mug
2. Mocha Latte
3. McLatte
4. McDouble
5. Caribou Coffee
6. Starbucks
7. Port City Java
8. Miller High Life
9. AA
10. Hates Coffee
11. Coffee
12. Juan Valdez
13. RedBull
14. Vitamin Water
15. Samuel Adams
16. Better Beer Found
17. Bitter Beer Face
18. Sam Adams Ale
19. Deer Park

Wonder who's who in this zoo?

Maybe we should add abbreviations to anonymous screen names. Help paint a little of the picture. Say, M|F for male|female. Or C|P|V for Career|Paid|Volunteer. Perhaps E|L|R for Engine|Ladder|Rescue. Maybe FF|DO|CP|CO for Firefighter|Driver-Operator|Captain|Chief Officer.

Of course, that doesn't help those outside the business. You might add A|F|R|B|C as Active|Former|Retired|Buff|Citizen. But what about related professions? Guess we need FD|EMS|LEO|EM, which are self-explanatory. Oh, the possibilities....

Perhaps some of the members of that zoo should indulge in some humble pie with their beverages.

GH - 07/08/11 - 12:31

Not a bad Idea Mike. Dont know if the bashers/haters would even consider putting those behind the screen names.

gen3fire M/C/E/Capt./RFD+former/vol - 07/08/11 - 13:21

I'm sad you cut off the discussion, I was personally finding a great deal of delight in reading all of the comments and giggling happily to myself :(- 07/08/11 - 14:07

Okay Mike, who is the imposter on your blog page titled "camera guy" in the non-hawaiian shirt? He obviously hasn't received a copy of the Legeros dress code.

Phillip - 07/08/11 - 14:15

I agree, "sad face". I hadn't even gotten a chance to join in...I was still trying to decide between using "Yuengling" or "Sqwincher".

Lt. Lemon (Email) (Web Site) - 07/08/11 - 14:46

While this idea is great, it's pointless. The ones' that hide will lie or make a mockery in some way, while we that choose to post our name will take it seriously as usual.

As far as the other discussion on the fire, I was lurking, but was ready to comment after "mt. dew". It's that same idiotic mindset that has taken many a fireman, that "this is Wake County, not P.G. (or anywhere else)". While I do agree, this is Wake County, we are behind the times when it comes to strategy and tactics, but we're making progress. There are concepts that can be used from the areas THAT FIGHT MORE FIRE THAN US (P.G. is one), and incorporate them here to make us better IN WAKE COUNTY. Stop already, go back and crawl underneath the rock you came from....and yes, I have been in the capacity to make decisions that have determined the outcome of an incident (be it "from the yard", or in the right front seat).

I'll repeat a quote I have heard before by a Chief of Department that lost nine of his men (culture and training being contributing factors) as he stood behind nine flag draped coffins; "This is (insert city here), we fight fire different than others, we fight it the (insert same city name here) way". This mindset killed nine of his men.....using booster hose as the main attack line and 2.5" as your only supply line. I almost fell out of my seat at this memorial service when he said it....

The fire the other day had a jump, as most lightning strikes do. Add in the delay of nobody being home (to report it), plus truss construction, and a minor delay with the first due engine, gives you a short window to get in, perform a search, and make a stop. They went in, searched, and attempted a stop. We went by there today, the reconstruction company was there, not the bulldozer. Looks like a success to me, without the smoking pile of bricks. Will we have our "oopsie daisies", yup, we will. Will people be hold accountable? I hope so; I saw first hand the other day, members being held accountable by intense training each day and reviewing roles and responsibilities not to punish, but to correct.

Stay safe...

Silver - 07/08/11 - 15:51

That thread has been re-opened. Jeff, choose your beverage-based alias wisely...

Legeros - 07/08/11 - 20:35

Phillip, thanks for the heads-up on the imposter. I have heard repeated reports of some guy that looks like me, who keeps stalking firefighters on scene. Once I catch that joker, I'll be laying the law with regard to dress code!

Legeros - 07/08/11 - 20:38

I'll go with Guinness!!

Silver - 07/08/11 - 21:29

I think I might keep it local, Carolina Pale Ale. Ok, a completely off topic question. Reference the Basil Dr fire, I believe that is the longest blog thread that I have seen on here. Just out of curiosity, what is the longest blog thread that you have had since the site has been up?

Marcus - 07/09/11 - 05:13

As for names... well, I'm drinking a VERY cold Yuengling right now! ...but I'm still A.C.

A.C. Rich - 07/09/11 - 17:01

Just had two Guinness and a shot of Jameson to close the night (actually around 9pm)!!

Silver - 07/09/11 - 23:52

I neither consume coffee nor adult beverages. But I did have a couple Diet Cokes at the Longbranch tonight.

Maybe this blog would be more interesting if it bore the occasional drunken posting at 2 a.m. I will work on that.

Legeros - 07/09/11 - 23:59

Yes, they reopened over a year ago.

Legeros - 07/10/11 - 09:17

Fire Commission Meeting Canceled for July 21

07/08/11 85 W - + 5 - 5

The regular scheduled meeting for the Wake County Fire Commission on July 11, 2011, has been canceled. County staff notes the July meeting's agenda item was the Fire Commission receiving information and design options regarding the Bay Leaf Station 1 project. More time is needed to prepare this presentation by the project team, which will be delivered at the next regular scheduled meeting on September 22, 2011. With no other action items for the July 11 meeting, it has been canceled. See you on September 22.

Didn't they not include changes or rebuilding of BL station 1?

BM - 07/08/11 - 21:23

I do not understand your question BM.

Legeros - 07/08/11 - 21:33

When the new budget was posted they had decided not to allocate any money for any upgrades or rebuilding of Bayleaf's Station 1. So why would they be presenting design options?

BM - 07/08/11 - 22:13

BM, let me attempt an answer on this one. I was not present at the last meeting, mind you, but I have reviewed the audio recording. The annual budget for county fire services is approved by the Wake County Commissioners. They base their approval on input and recommendations from the Wake County Fire Commission.

Thus, there's a meeting— the last meeting— where the fire commission approves the recommendation to send up the chain. The fire commission makes that decision based on input and recommendation from a fire commission subcommittee. Believe it's called, no surprise, the budget committee. So it works like this:

Fire Comm. Budget Committee > Fire Commission > County Commissions

How does business in the budget committee work? As I understand the process, they discuss and ultimately vote on the things to take the Fire Commission. Prior to the last Fire Commission meeting in May, they conducted their voting on what they'd be recommending. One of the items that was being voted upon was the reconstruction of Bay Leaf Fire Station 1.

There was a procedural problem with the voting, as was related in the May meeting of the Fire Commission. The voting on that particular issue did not follow the established procedure. This was brought to the attention of the Fire Commission at the May meeting. And at the time the full budget recommendation was being approved, for bumping up the chain.

Here's where my understanding of the issue gets a bit fuzzier. The Fire Commission elected to send the budget up the chain, but without the Bay Leaf project recommended, but without taking the Bay Leaf project off the table entirely. That's my high-level understanding. Thus, the project participants in the Bay Leaf project— county fire services, county design/facilities services, Bay Leaf FD, etc.— are continuing their work, and are preparing a presentation for the Fire Commission at a coming meeting.

Clear as mud?

Legeros - 07/09/11 - 08:25

There are two recommendatons that move forward: the Fire Commission's and the county manager's. The Fire Commission's recommendation did not include the station however the manager's did. The county commissioners decide the final outcome and/or process.

A.C. Rich - 07/09/11 - 12:09

Even then, the Board of Commissioners may decide to add, augment, or delete any portions of the recommendations that are presented. The Fire Commission's recommendation is not the "end all."

A.C. Rich - 07/09/11 - 14:44

Sketchy, thanks

BM - 07/11/11 - 09:48

BM, what specific or general additional questions do you have? Or, rather, what's incomplete in the above information. We may be able to get answers and explanations.

Legeros - 07/11/11 - 09:51

Nothing really specific Mike. It is just odd to me that this one particular point had some sort of 'voting irregularity'...that makes it sound more like a loophole to get what you want rather than following the actual accepted procedures.

BM - 07/11/11 - 13:10

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.

North Carolina Firefighting History, Friday, August 12

07/08/11 110 W - + 5 - 0

One of the workshops at the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#) in Raleigh in August is the following history talk. We'll work up a proper posting about the convention itself at a later date.

North Carolina Firefighting History
Friday, August 12
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Raleigh Fire Department Historian Mike Legeros again presents his popular history of firefighting in North Carolina. He combines his ongoing research with old photos, maps, and other materials to trace 300+ years of hooks, hose, and ladders in the Old North State. Questions and audience participation is encouraged. The presentation also includes a short session on Researching Fire Department Histories.

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.

Fire Museum Morning

07/09/11 141 W - + 5 - 1

Open for business at 10:00 a.m. at 105 Keeter Center Drive. That's the [Raleigh Fire Department Museum](#), located in a classroom trailer at the training center. Which means Blog Bloy needs to be there around 9:30 or 9:45. Have a poster to hang, a [list of department milestones](#). Have a couple additions to the collection, including a 1973 booklet of pump operator formulas and questions from ISO. The gang at Station 6 found that one. There's media to be played, so we'll fire up a DVD player (1950 film footage), a CD player (audio from recent major working fires), and a computer (slideshow of photos from the 1940s to present). And for any downtime, there's busy work being brought along. The latest issue of the [Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter](#) is nearly ready. Will be finishing a couple articles for that one. See you there.

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.

Forty on Forty

07/09/11 167 W, 1 I - + 5 - 2

[WTVD has some details](#) on yesterday afternoon's series of car collisions on Interstate 40 in and around and between Harrison Avenue and Aviation Parkway. Recalling the radio traffic, Western Wake, Cary, and Morrisville fire departments answered the calls, with Cary, Eastern Wake, and Wake County EMS units.

Forty, count 'em forty, vehicles were involved in seven total accidents. Started with an 11-car collision on I-40 westbound near Aviation Parkway. This was shortly after it stopped raining, a deputy explains.

Recalling the weather over by Blog Central, that post-rain conditions on paved surfaces was a hazy experience, with the peeking sunlight a bit blinding. Certainly would have been a visual impairment on busier roads!

The resulting traffic jam contributed to an eight-vehicle accident at Wade Avenue. Meaning, at the Harrison Avenue exit, another eight-vehicle collision compounded matters. The radio traffic was certainly engaging. Mostly minor injuries. Wonder how many patients, total? Maybe someone's got a run card on the whole thing, as well.



WTVD 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.

Anonymous Screen Names - Pros and Cons

07/10/11 83 W - + 5 - 3

Google searching finds some interesting perspectives. Next step, actually reading these things! Stand by for possible pontification.

- [Anonymous Screen Names on the Hive : Why You Need Them](#)
- [Pros & Cons of Being Anonymous vs. Revealing Your Identity](#)
- [To Anonymous Online Commenters](#)
- [To Be \(Anonymous\) or Not To Be](#)
- [Usernames vs. Real Names on Your Community: Pros and Cons](#)
- [What are the pros and cons of staying anonymous online?](#)
- [What would your anonymous screen name be?](#)

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.

Station 2 at Memorial Auditorium, 1961

07/10/11 148 W, 2 I - + 4 - 4

These vintage photos of Raleigh Fire Station 2 at Memorial Auditorium were brought to the museum yesterday. They were donated by Robert Upchurch, a retired Lieutenant who served the department from 1956 to 1983. He's pictured in the first photo. Need names for the other two. The photos are dated March 1961. We'll see if our library the log book for same, and can perhaps get those names. [Station 2 was housed at the auditorium](#) from 1932 to 1969. Here's some [old film footage from there](#).

At least three of the stations had fuel pumps back then. Station 1, Station 2, Station 6. What's the apparatus in the second bay beside the engine? That's [one of the old tankers](#). The 1960 GMC/Alexander apparatus, one of two, was housed at Station 2 from 1960 to 1963, when it was moved to Station 9, and then to Station 14 in 1974. Both were removed from service on September 4, 1986. Click to enlarge:



Raleigh Fire Department Historical Exhibit, 1990s

07/10/11 318 W, 1 I - + 8 - 4

Here's another picture donated by Lt. Upchurch. This was a historical exhibit of the Raleigh Fire Department displayed during the 1990s. The location was a house near St. Mary's Street, one of the buildings on the site of the old Methodist Orphanage.¹ The exhibit was created and maintained by department historian and retired Captain B. T. Fowler (1951-1986). And that's about the extent of that known information. Click to enlarge, to [see a super-sized version](#):



Let's see what we can identify:

- Black helmet, plastic. Number 84, Lt. Upchurch. Plastic helmets were used from circa 1950 to 1984.
- Black turnout coat.
- Dress uniform for Fire Chief. Shoulder patch dates the coat to 1986 or later.
- Helmet, plastic. Chief officer or Fire Chief.
- White turnout coat, for chief officer.
- Black helmet. Number 300-something (far right).
- Black turnout coat (far right).
- Helmet shield, badges, pins, in wall cases on right.
- Gamewell/ADT commercial fire alarm box (center). One of those is displayed in the current museum.
- Hand hook of some type. What's that called?
- Straight-bore stacked nozzle tips (far right).

Photos, left wall:

- Smoke rising from South Blount Street area, from fires during period of civil unrest in April 1968.
- Lt. Robert Upchurch in posed photo taken by his son.
- [Apartment fire on Hillsboro Street](#) in September, 1961.

Photos, back wall:

- Various fire scenes, including what looks like the A&P Grocery fire in February, 1966.
- Simpkins Garage fire in 1926, [alternate view of this photo](#).
- Capitol Theater on Martin Street, circa 1947. See page 33 of my first Raleigh/Wake firefighting book.

Photos, right wall:

- The photo below the nozzle is Ammon's Clothing in March 1939, I believe.

¹There are two buildings remaining there, and it's one of them. The building is on Clay Street, off St. Mary's, across from Broughton High School. Lee Wilson remembers the exhibit as small, one or two rooms. Thanks for the recollections, Lee!

Jon, our collection of items is not specifically the same as these items. We have a similar set of vintage turnout gear, and similar old photos, nozzles, and hand tools.

Legeros - 07/16/11 - 09:32

As for the building, it is likely the Borden Building at Fletcher Park, one of two remaining buildings on the former campus of the Methodist Home for Children. That was one of a couple orphanages that was present in the Capital City. The Borden Building was built in 1900, and was the home for the Superintendent of the orphanage. It was later used to house children.

The city bought the building in 1982. It was extensively renovated in 1992. It also served as the first location for the Raleigh City Museum, which opened its first exhibit in 1993. The museum used a couple rooms in the Borden Building for their first location, recalls Borden Building staff. After 1995, they moved into the historic Briggs Hardware Building, which is the city's only 19th Century commercial building that has survived essentially unchanged.

The News & Observer on June 11, 1993, notes the museum's first exhibit was How Fire Has Changed the Face of Raleigh. The information and display items for the museum was provided by Fowler— noted above as a retired Captain and the department's then-historian— and other retired members. {He's also the father of later Fire Chief Earl Fowler.}

The museum chose firefighter as the subject of its first exhibit "partly because of the large amount of information [that] was available in Fowler's 95-page history of the fire department." You can read that history here: <http://raleighfirehistory.org/content/19..>

The exhibit contained "old photographs, newspaper stories and artifacts, such as early helmets, clothing and firefighting tools" as well as a "remnant of the marble statu of George Washington that was destroyed when the State House burned."

Thus this picture is only one part of that exhibit. Wonder what the whole thing looked like!

The exhibit also traced the evolution of firefighting equipment and fire protection measures. Three antique fire engines, including the 1905 steam engine (then-believed to be built in 1887), were included. The paper also notes that four modern engines were displayed. That would have been quite a fleet, if displayed over time!

Work to create a Raleigh City Museum started 2 1/2 years prior, noted the story. The exhibit was open on Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and was planned to be open for the remainder of that year.

Legeros - 07/16/11 - 09:36

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Mystery Tunnel

07/10/11 22 W, 1 I - + 5 - 7

There are only a couple of tunnels around these parts. Where's this one?



Ligon St at the I-440 overpass heading the NCSU property.

Duffy - 07/10/11 - 16:57

agreed, down there off method

same - 07/10/11 - 20:28

What they said ^.....

Silver - 07/10/11 - 21:32

Damn, I finally knew one and got beat to the punch.

marcus - 07/11/11 - 02:40

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

Wilmington's Empie Park Fire Station Gets Demolished

07/10/11 253 W, 15 I - + 6 - 5

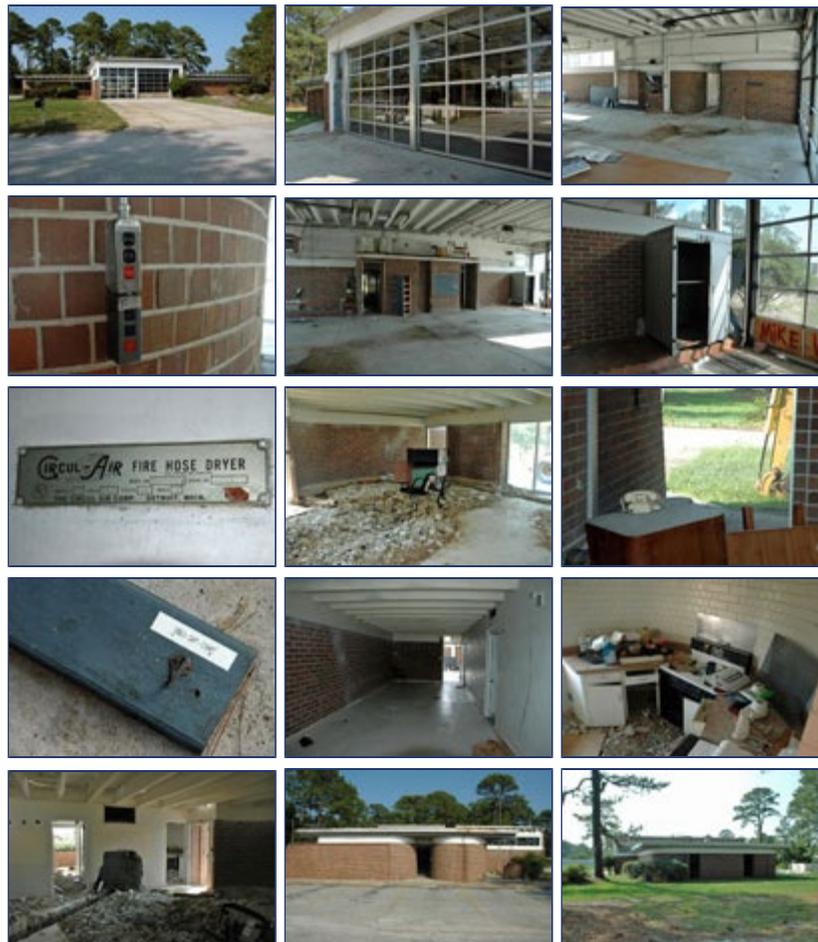
Reader Matt White sends some photos of the demolition of Wilmington's Empie Park fire station, also known as Fire Station 2. [The Star-News reported last year](#) about plans to replace the 1965 structure with a facility better-suited to the bigger rigs of today. Then in October, [a mold problem closed the fire station](#). It's been unoccupied since.

The two-bay station at 3403 Park Avenue will be replaced with a \$2.4 million structure. The designer is Gage Architects of Wilmington, who has designed other city stations including the cSeagate Fire Station that opened in 2008. Google doesn't find any drawings of the new building, alas.

Notes Matt, the words "Mike was here" are spray painted on the inside of the bay door. Funny! Love the curves that well-represent the architecture of the 1960s. What's that, modernist design? And who gets to claim that vintage hose dryer?

Fire stations are one of my favorite fire service research topics. They're pieces of history and infrastructure with very long service lives. They're often written about by newspapers. There are also public real estate records to help learn their history. And they stay around, even after removed from service.

Some years ago, Mr. Blogger researched Wilmington's historic and former fire stations. Recall that the Wilmington Fire Department was the state's largest at the turn of the prior century, as it was the largest city at the time. [Read about those buildings](#). Then take a peek at Matt's great photos. Click to enlarge:



"Mike Was Here"...

The door came down on one of our ladder trucks during a sever thunderstorm one evening last year. The bottom row of glass was broken out. We already have pre-cut plywood for just such an occasion since this wasn't the first time it's happened. "Mike" was the driver.

Oh, we're still waiting on the old house to come down...

Ryan - 07/11/11 - 10:54

It looks like there was never any "modernization" done to that fire station at all. From the pictures it looks like they could film a vintage movie there and not have to do any work at all to the set. Those kitchen cabinets and stove, WOW!

Drives A Ladder - 07/12/11 - 17:31

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.

Registration Open for Raleigh Fire Expo Fire Truck Parade

07/11/11 144 W, 1 I - + 7 - 8

Registration has opened for the apparatus Saturday parade during the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#) in Raleigh in August. The event starts at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 13, 2011. Note the earlier start time this year. Antiques, modern apparatus and honor guards are invited to participate.



The parade runs about 45 minutes, on a route that includes Fayetteville Street. [Full details are available here.](#) All participants are required to register on-line for a slot. Trophies will be awarded in seven categories, listed below.

- Longest Distance Traveled
- Best Appearing Honor Guard
- Best Appearing Pipe and Drum Band
- Best Appearing Modern Engine
- Best Appearing Modern Aerial
- Best Appearing Special Apparatus
- Best Appearing Antique Apparatus

What we really need is a category for most colorfully clad accompanying fire photographer. Might have a lock on that one.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Why the Hate?

07/12/11 123 W - + 7 - 4

Posted by myself as a comment to the Caption This Thread photo from the other day. Seems worthy of it's own posting. Will you be willing to answer the question?

While I do thank everyone for their comments and participation on this blog, I do also wonder where the hostility is coming from.

I am neither a therapist nor play one on television, but maybe we need a thread where readers can get on the couch for a few.

Or, more simply, share a bit on what's going inside those heads.

I guess, as a question, **what do you presently dislike about your job/role in the fire service?**

And what about these postings brings that out?

Note that these questions are "you" based. There may be plenty of things that you don't like, but narrow your opinion to those things that affect YOU.

Let's get personal.

Legeros - 07/12/11 - 08:51

I don't like having to be an EMT. I know it's the way things are and I love being a fireman, which now requires it. But I didn't get into the fire service to be an EMT. I hate that we don't seem to get many calls when I work. Yes, that's good for the people we serve, but it doesn't help that I don't get to use the skills I've trained on very much. I hate the drama that is the firehouse. It's everywhere. Big city, small rural vullie and all points in between. I hate that our brothers and sisters lose sight that this is a team effort and we all need to help each other, on the scene and off, to better ourselves as people. Getting stabbed in the back because someone doesn't like you isn't a good feeling. We have to be able to trust each other. I hate that I don't get to spend as much time at the station as I'd like. But what I really hate about that is that people take that (in most cases, not just mine) that you've either lost interest, don't care, or don't want to be there. For some that may be true. For most, it's because their situation in life has changed and they have to move their priorities around. I think if you're putting in as much as you're able, you're doing your part. If you fall short, maybe you need to reevaluate your priorities.

Duda ([Email](#)) - 07/12/11 - 08:59

I hate having to make up for the shortcomings of a broken system that SOME folks don't want to change. When I need/want a resource, I want/need the closest, staffed and trained resource. Jurisdictional and ego boundaries should be gone in this day and time. Why should I have to wait for X dept to be my back up company/resource when they have to PASS Y dept while Y dept sits in the house because of some stupid political agenda??? I feel it has a direct affect on my safety and the safety of my crew, but all you hear is "that's the Wake Co/Raleigh way". Yet, I have and will continue to do the best I can with what I have to make sure that my crew and I get the job done....

Stay Safe folks and HYDRATE, HYDRATE, HYDRATE...

Wayne - 07/12/11 - 19:35

Thanks Wayne, thanks Duda, for the perspectives. It's refreshing to hear "I" statements in comments, and not just "I think."

Legeros - 07/12/11 - 19:45

Response from reader DJ, posted to his own blog: <http://9-echo-1.blogspot.com/2011/07/lik..>

Legeros - 07/13/11 - 19:50

Mystery Location

07/12/11 22 W, 1 I - + 9 - 4

Might not need clues for this one. We'll keep silent to start.



Heck, I don't know, maybe the driveway entrance area at Wake County Fire Training Center?

Silver - 07/13/11 - 00:26

Pulled the camera back a bit. Refresh this page. Maybe that'll tell it.

Legeros - 07/17/11 - 13:00

Logans Trading Company in downtown?

Bob P. - 07/17/11 - 21:14

Please identify contemporary locations by their original/historical names...

Legeros - 07/17/11 - 21:19

Bagwell Seaboard Airline Railroad Station... according to the Logan's website.

Bob P. - 07/17/11 - 21:47

Excellent. For extra credit, identify the angle and direction the camera is pointing... LOL

Legeros - 07/17/11 - 22:37

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Granville County Paramedic Killed Yesterday

07/13/11 101 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

[WRAL reported yesterday](#) on the off-duty death of Granville County Paramedic Merle Faucette, who was killed Tuesday morning in a head-on collision on Highway 96 north Oxford. He was traveling by motorcycle when a car crossed the center line and struck him. The driver had reported fallen asleep at the wheel. Faucette, 52, was en route to Duke Hospital, having received the news that his 91-year-old mother had suffered a massive heart attack. He had left Oak Hill EMS Station 7 about 7:30 a.m. The funeral will be held Thursday. Other coverage: [News 14](#), [News & Observer](#).



WRAL photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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

Citizens React to Fatal Fire in Weston, MO

07/13/11 319 W - + 8 - 7

Dave Statter at Statter911.com is reporting on an interesting story out of Weston, MO. On July 4, the owner of an antique store died in a daytime fire. On July 11, some two citizens presented a video to the city council and claiming it shows a 14-minute delay before water was put on the fire. One of the chiefs on the departments on scene disputes the account. Dave has two reports, [his initial story](#) with news links and news video clips. And a [second posting](#), with a longer, raw video clip.

There are number things to think about and maybe discuss, either here or on Dave's site. (Some two dozen reader comments have already been posted to the two posts.) Citizens with cameras. Everyone's carrying one, notably as part of their cell phones. Cameras that record video are become equally ubiquitous. (That's a 50-cent word, there.) Thus a reasonable likelihood that a daytime fire in any populated area is going to produce footage that reasonably documents a department's activities.

Another is public relations, which Dave has long-addressed on his blog. When things go wrong or bad things happen, he has long-advocated, commence public speaking. Release available information. Talk to the media. Don't hide. Don't avoid. (Very short summary there. He does himself far better justice. And which is why he's on a panel about social media at the Baltimore Fire Expo next week.)

Citizen perception and citizen reaction is also exemplified in the story. The reader comments provide good perspective here. One reader, named Barry, notes: "From my experience, sidewalk critics of fireground operations are not really attacking the fire department. Sidewalk critics are in shock because they feel helpless in having to stand by and watch property destroyed and lives lost." Good perspective. Read the stories on Statter911.com yourself, and discuss as desired. Here or there.

Pretty bad when the guy on the tip has to run to the pump panel and pull a prime.

To my Brothers and Sisters in blue that follow this site, please, for the love of God, STAY WITH YOUR DAMN CAR!!! This won't change until someone mans up and pushes that little Crown Vic out of the way with their bumper. When you block the road, then lock and leave your car to watch men at work, while the intent is meant no harm I'm sure, you are also blocking the road to fire department vehicles that need to get in place. Thanks!!

Silver - 07/13/11 - 14:37

Thanks for quoting my comment from statter911.com. Further commentary later today on pipenozzle.com on both the fire, the civilian reaction, and the media coverage from Kansas City.

Barry Greer ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/15/11 - 13:03

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Raleigh Police Department Hazardous Devices Unit

07/13/11 114 W, 1 I - + 7 - 8

Here's a police support vehicle seen today at Daniels Middle School, where Active Shooter classes were being conducted for EMS and law enforcement personnel. That's a Chevy Silverado 3500, right? Body looks similar but maybe not an exact match to the fire department's [haz-mat recon vehicle](#).

The police department also has a [box truck for hazardous devices response](#), built by Matthews Specialty Vehicles. That unit transports a robot, and pulls a device disposal trailer, if memory serves. Wonder how many other special support vehicles are part of their fleet? We blogged about one of them recently, this [Chevy/Hackney equipment truck](#).



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'?

News Footage From Scotch Drive

07/14/11 163 W - + 9 - 3

[WTVD posted this video story](#) about yesterday's two-alarm house fire at 3453 Scotch Drive. Lightning struck the roof, and fire damaged the attic. New Hope responded as automatic aid with Raleigh, notes the story. Recalling radio traffic, they dispatched a number of tankers, to assist with water supply.

Additional incident information: E28, E22, E19, L5, R1, B1, New Hope engine on initial dispatch. Second alarm and working fire dispatched together: E25, E21, E7, E9, L2, B2, A1, C10, C20, New Hope Rescue 14. Also on scene: New Hope Car 2, and New Hope 100. Plus tankers for water supply. Plus medical. Dispatched about 6:00 p.m. Controlled within 30 minutes, if memory serves.

The city had another working fire later that evening, at an apartment building at 2644 Oberlin Road. Believe Zebulon had a working fire about the same time on Carroll Heights Road. Local temperatures had dropped to around 80 degrees around 10:00 p.m. Forecast today is considerably cooler. High eighties. Stay hydrated.

Great to see that platform in use for something other than big water. Kudos L-5!!

Silver - 07/14/11 - 12:58

glad to see some positive comments on the Co Depts assisting RFD!

ENGINE DRIVER - 07/14/11 - 14:06

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

News Photos From Fayetteville Crane Collapse

07/14/11 85 W, 1 I - + 11 - 6

[WTVD has also posted](#) some viewer photos and aerial footage of yesterday's crane collapse in Fayetteville. The tracked crane collapsed at a parking deck construction site on Franklin Street. Two cars were struck, along with the structure under construction. The operator was transported to the hospital as a precaution. The *Fayetteville Observer* has [also covered the story](#). The 110-crane suffered a small fuel link, which was contained by the Fayetteville Fire Department's haz-mat team.



Neill Lindsay/WTVD 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'?

This Afternoon's House Fire / Daufuskie Drive (Updated)

07/14/11 237 W, 1 I - + 6 - 8

Engine 21 arriving at [2124 Daufuskie Drive](#), at a two-story, single-family dwelling with heavy fire venting through the roof. Built 2002, with 2,840 square-feet. All residents had self-evacuated at the time of arrival. The house was fully-involved with minutes, recalling radio traffic, with crews protecting exposures. Defensive operations started with Ladder 2, supplied by Engine 27. That began, say, five or seven minutes into the incident.

Additional details are provided by the fire department media release. The incident was dispatched at 1:33 p.m. The fire was controlled 1:53 p.m. Cause determined as accidental. No civilian injuries, but at least one firefighter was transported with head heat exhaustion. Units on scene included the following... First alarm: E21, E11, E27, L2, R1, B2. Working fire: E12, A1, C10, C20. Two additional engines special called, but returned to service before arriving, E15 and E26.

Where are news reports, you ask? The call was reported on Summer Shire Way, which was a bit difficult to understand (at least for me, via VHF rebroadcast via Uniden base station sitting in Cary) from Locution. Simply, the news reporters might not have been able to tell where the fire was! We'll see what six o'clock brings. That's one of the downsides with the system. Some times you just can't quite tell what's being said. Of course, not every live human is easy to understand at all times, as well.



Lee Wilson photo

Bring back the live dispatchers!!!

Silver - 07/14/11 - 19:04

Updated with a photo from Lee Wilson, and a few additional incident details, include at least one firefighter transported with heat exhaustion.

Legeros - 07/14/11 - 23:56

seems like I saw 2 news crews there. not sure which ones though. Was it ever on the evening news?

lee - 07/15/11 - 00:24

Thanks Lee.

Observe the cycle of supposition and validation that I demonstrated. Because I had not seen any news reports, I made the supposition that no

news crews were present. I then created an explanation for that supposition, and was talking about it like it was a fact.

The quarterback trap, we might call it.

Legeros - 07/15/11 - 08:13

C'mon Mikey, we're firemen here!!! "Supposition", "validation"...thank God for Google.

Silver - 07/15/11 - 10:48

How bout that "Head Exhaustion"!!! Think I've had that a few times.

House - 07/15/11 - 12:55

wtd had it on their news.

lee - 07/15/11 - 13:37

Jeff, does my literate loquaciousness give you head exhaustion? Perhaps I am a closet lexophile. Just watch out for that thesaurus. He's got one mean bite!

Legeros - 07/15/11 - 19:36

Its tit for tat as to whether live dispatchers are better or not. I remember struggling to understand some of them esp. when they sped up due to excitement, or whatever. Either way, a garbled tx is a garbled tx. Say what you will, but there is no appreciable accent to locution, you can't say the same about live dispatchers.

BC - 07/16/11 - 01:45

Intelligibility is overall pretty darn high with Locution. Listening through VHF re-broadcast via older scanners— I use my newer digital trunking scanners for monitoring the tac channels— only the odd or occasional street name is tough to hear, in my opinion. For a while, some of the double-digit numbers sounded alike, like, say, thirteen and fifteen. Or maybe it was fifteen and sixteen. Can't readily recall and haven't noticed lately. But for this buff, the street's the thing! Get me on the block or the road, and I can find the scene!

Legeros - 07/16/11 - 08:51

I live nearby...did they ever release the cause of the fire?

Daniel ([Email](#)) - 07/17/11 - 17:05

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

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

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

Off-Duty Firefighter Rescues Woman at House Fire

07/15/11 166 W - + 4 - 2

[WTVB reports in this story](#) about an off-duty firefighter that rescued a woman from a burning house in southern Wake County this morning. He and 14-year-old son were visiting family members when they smelled smoke. The off-duty Raleigh firefighter, who declined to be interviewed, located the fire at [4141 South Mountain Drive](#). On the second floor of the house, a woman was banging on the window. He persuaded the woman to exit the window, and borrowed a neighbor's ladder to help her escape.

Fairview, Garner, and Fuquay-Varina fire departments responded to the fire, that was reported around 9:30 a.m. Arriving units found heavy fire on the second floor of the two-story, wood-frame structure with 1,902 square-feet. Built in 1997. The fire took about 20 minutes to place under control. Water shuttle operations were utilized and the units on scene included Fairview E3, E2, E1, E8, Tanker 7, Tanker 6, C2, Garner E2, E3, R2, Tanker 12, Tanker 7, B1, C2, Fuquay-Varina E2, Tanker 3, Tanker 4, B1.

Great job by the off-duty Ral Lt for helping make the grab

Mike - 07/15/11 - 22:08

NBC17 video story, <http://www2.nbc17.com/news/2011/jul/15/6..>

Legeros - 07/16/11 - 00:56

ABSOLUTELY OUTSTANDING!! Way to go P.G.!

A.C. Rich - 07/16/11 - 12:12

Still more on this story, <http://abclocal.go.com/wtvd/story?sectio..>

Legeros - 07/18/11 - 21:14

LT. P Job well done friend. You did it with class and dignity.You could have jumped in front of a camera and said look what I did but you took the classy way out.You did it from the goodness of your heart not the notoriety.You epitomize not only what a good fireman should be but, what a great person should be. We all in the Raleigh Fire Dept. should follow your lead

Uncle Buck - 07/19/11 - 13:17

First Annual Brotherhood Bash, Friday, August 12

07/15/11 161 W - + 7 - 6

From the Capital Area FOOLS comes this announcement of a firefighter bash during the Raleigh Fire Expo in August. Stay tuned for more information:

Friday, August 12
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Napper Tandy's Irish Pub
126 N. West Street
Raleigh, NC, 27603

Please join us for the First Annual Brotherhood Bash during the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#). The event is brought to you by the Capital Area FOOLS and the [Wake County Firefighter's Association](#). We'll be joined by brother and sisters from across the state and the southeast.

Several Raffles will be held, including:

- 1st Prize - Cairns Leather Helmet
- 2nd Prize - Leather Fire Boots
- 3rd Prize - Custom Cornhole Boards

Other planned activities include:

- 50/50 raffle
- Door prizes
- Live bands
- Food and drink specials
- Pipe and drum jam session, featuring the pipes and drums bands from Morrisville FD and Atlantic Beach FD

All proceeds will be donated to the [North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Foundation](#).

Looking forward to it...see you there!

Silver - 07/15/11 - 22:45

No appearance by the Wake Pipes and Drums?

Silver - 07/16/11 - 00:45

Count on wake and district band members coming out and supporting the event...

Joe Brady ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/16/11 - 21:46

Good to hear it Joe..

Silver - 07/16/11 - 23:38

@Joe- Great to hear that! Tell Jason Lane to check his messages! Also would like to talk to you about participating that night.

@Silver- Glad to hear you are going to come out and make an appearance! Maybe you can finally buy me that beer we keep claiming we're going to get!

If anyone has any questions about the Capital Area FOOLS or the Brotherhood Bash please feel free to get in touch with me anytime...looking forward to the BASH and a night of fellowship and BROTHERHOOD!

STAY SAFE

Craig McDowell ([Email](#)) - 07/17/11 - 02:39

Maybe I'll win the lid so I can have a fourth for the shelf :(.....

Silver - 07/17/11 - 14:47

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.

Cary Motorcycle Officer Injured in Crash

07/16/11 78 W - + 3 - 5

[WTVD](#) has posted [this story](#) on the accident this afternoon that injured a Cary Police Department motor unit. The collision between the motorcycle and a pick-up truck occurred just before 5:00 p.m. at the intersection of Highway 55 and Morrisville Carpenter Road. The officer was transported to Duke, and his condition remains unknown. The other driver was transported to WakeMed in Apex with minor injuries. See also reports on [News 14](#) and [WRAL](#).

anyone know the condition of the officer?

Joe Brady ([Email](#)) - 07/16/11 - 09:37

Serious, but non-life threatening.....

Rose - 07/17/11 - 14:16

This Cary News story has an update on his condition, <http://www.carynews.com/2011/07/17/40369..>

Legeros - 07/18/11 - 09:41

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.

Caption This Photo / Tar Far

07/16/11 101 W, 1 I - + 6 - 3

Reader Brian Phillips shares this photo of a tire fire on the east side of Garner this morning. Reported around 9:00 a.m. as an outside fire with hazardous materials at [8505 White Oak Road](#). Recalling radio traffic, Engine 4 and Engine 2 were first on scene. Five-inch supply line laid on/along White Oak Road. Tankers also sent to scene. Clayton FD as mutual aid. Fuquay-Varina and Eastern Wake fire departments to Garner for coverage. Wake County EMS and Eastern Wake EMS for rehab. Sounds like crews are now clearing the scene.



Bing Maps bird's eye view of the area, <http://www.bing.com/maps/?v=2&cp=py9jv18..>

Legeros - 07/16/11 - 12:14

Holy Smokes !!!!!

Fireman - 07/16/11 - 12:19

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

Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - State Capitol Police« [Caption This Photo / ...](#) » [This Afternoon's Hous...](#) Budget Cut in Half

State Capitol Police Budget Cut in Half

07/16/11 258 W, 1 I - + 5 - 3

Today's News & Observer [has an interesting article](#) about the State Capitol Police and the budget cuts they've suffered. Theirs was halved from \$4 million to \$2 million, notes the story. That resulted in a reduction of 40 employees, e.g. sworn officers, security guards, telecommunicators, and support staff. Their 14 patrol cars have been reduced by half, and they are no longer conducting patrols at night. Staffing 16 state government buildings is their focus post-cuts.

The State Capitol Police was formed in 1967, to provide security for state government facilities. Those number 160 buildings and offices both downtown and in west Raleigh. How many people work in same? The story notes there are 26,000 state employees, county-wide. The department also monitors over 1,000 (!) alarm systems in facilities statewide.

Who's covering the beats of the reduced State Capitol Police force? That'll be the Raleigh Police Department, which itself is operating in a leaner mode along with other departments in the city. By the numbers, notes the story, \$2 million is the amount of savings to the state. And \$1.7 million is the estimated amount the city will spend to assume patrol responsibilities.

Where will that money come from? [Read the story to learn more](#), and which includes a dozen-some reader comments. For **blog discussion**, topics could include public safety cuts in general. What are the core services and priority service levels for police, fire, and emergency medical agencies? What aspects of those are reasonable to trim or cut outright? Tough times.



According to the N&O: \$2 Million was saved by the cuts, but \$1.7 million (estimated) will be spent by Raleigh to cover the areas left open by the layoffs.... So really, only \$300k have been saved right? Was hoping they could spare Public Safety and cut some of the other spending elsewhere.

Chris ([Email](#)) - 07/16/11 - 20:38

Any RPD guys that know; how does that work? For all that time they had jurisdiction, now RPD takes it? Is that done by the swipe of a pen? Or, is the State having to throw some money at RPD for them to cover it?

Silver - 07/16/11 - 21:12

reminds me of when the County shut down Western Wake Station 2 to save money, and ended up spending more money to contract with Cary FD to provide the services than it cost to keep the station open...

magic trick - 07/17/11 - 08:15

It was hard to tell from the articles if the state was going to pay RPD anything. I doubt it. It will still save the state \$2 million, it's just that it will cost the city \$1.7 million. Seems like that was what RPD's chief was speaking about.

In reading stuff from around the country, it seems like when the politicians say they have to cut spending on EMS, fire, and police, it is a dire picture that is painted to get the voters to go with it. After all, for the vast majority of the population, that is a 'painless' act- most folks never need us. However, let them talk about cutting teachers and education (OMG, we will be hurting the children), parks and recreation (OMG, the children and puppies will have no where to go), the libraries (OMG, the children will not have books to read to their puppies), the public is up in arms.

I see TONS of waste with Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security, but see what happens when you try and adjust those...

It is just easier to cut a police department that only arrested 70 people last year. Bad idea, but what can you do?

DJ - 07/17/11 - 09:19

Good comments, DJ. Arrests are only one data point, however. Are there numbers on crimes prevented? Laugh, it's okay. Just like numbers on fires prevented. Short of mystical, magical, means, it's impossible to determine the calls for help that didn't need to happen. (Although there certainly exists data on reported crimes. Inferences and conclusions could be drawn there.)

The article details some of the services provided by the Captiol PD, as night escorts of females to vehicles. Wow, we were paying officers (or perhaps just the guards) for escort duty, one camp might chortle. But isn't that also a form of crime prevention, a different perspective can say? (Again, someone data-driven probably has that answer.) But that's just a side example. A larger issue is service levels.

All services come from resources. All resources come from somewhere. The current economic turbulence is forcing new or renewed examination of such. What exactly are we willing to pay for, with regard to what our fire, police, emergency medical departments? What are the need to haves, versus the nice to haves? I am guessing those discussions took place at the state-level, with the Captiol Police.

And that's the best introduction to this line of thinking that my 8:40 a.m. Sunday brain can concoct.

Legeros - 07/17/11 - 09:44

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.

Vintage Photo of New Bern's 1968 Ford/Ward LaFrance

07/17/11 116 W, 2 I - + 7 - 3

Found for sale on eBay, here's a slide scan of New Bern's 1968 Ford/Ward LaFrance, then operating as Engine 10. Remember Ward LaFrance? Quite a few custom and conventional WLF apparatus served in the state.

Regarding the photo, what station is shown? Doesn't look like any of the [former stations in my list](#). Nor matches the current stations, shown on the [Nbfd web site](#). Wasn't there a small station on the west side, on a main road? Is that what we're seeing, and is it missing from my historical information? Click to enlarge:



Sunday update, here's the fire station in the photo, old Station 2. Click to enlarge:



Mike, I am pretty sure that was at the Fort Totten station which was closed when the new Headquarters station was built. There was another Station on National Ave. Sta.3 that also closed. The station on the West Side of town is Station 4 on Elizabeth Ave. at the intersection of Glenburnie Rd. It is still there and a Ladder Co. and Reserve Engine are housed there. This is from my memory, I left the City PD in 07'.

Chris ([Email](#)) - 07/17/11 - 16:52

Thinking more about that photo, I believe it is probably a **rear** station photo, which would explain my confusion trying to compare the door with the photos on my history page, etc.

Legeros - 07/17/11 - 16:57

Mike it does kinda does look like the old station 2 on ft totten drive but kinda hard to tell from that picture I will try and ask around

nbfr vollie - 07/17/11 - 19:14

Added a picture of old Station 2. It looks like the same thing, with the paneling since added over the brick above the bay door.

Legeros - 07/17/11 - 19:31

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.

York, PA / Reading, PA - Historic/Former Firehouses?

07/17/11 355 W - + 7 - 4

Posted a question to the [firehouse.com forums last week](#), asking for information on former and historic firehouses in York and Reading, PA. Both cities get a visit this week as Mr. Blogger takes a circular route to the Baltimore Fire Expo. On Wednesday, a double-bill of Rob Zombie and Slayer opens at the Sovereign Center in Reading.

For pre-show activities, an exploration of old engine houses is certainly in order. Looks York might be the smaller and more self-contained project. Plus, I happen to have a York FD yearbook, bought on eBay a couple years ago, and published a couple decades ago.

Below is a list of engine houses still standing in York, at last as has been found so far. Have already shot some of them, when passing through the city some years ago. It'll be a fun excursion, and I will work to resist the temptation to research and write a full history of the city's engine houses. Stay focused, Mike:

Station 1 - Rex/Laurel
49 South Duke Street
1878

Station 2 - Vigilant
273 West Market Street
1974

Not historic, but included to be complete

Station 5 - Goodwill
833 East Market Street
1903

Station 9 - Lincoln
800 Roosevelt Avenue
1946

Old Station 6 - Royal - Museum
757 West Market St.
1903

Old Station 7 - Eagle
Jackson and Jessop
1912

Old Station 4 - Rescue
S. George near W. Church
1874 - Closed 1970

And this list has been provided to me of Reading fire stations, but it might be incomplete:

Organized	Company	Units	Location
03/17/1773	Rainbow	E1 E1A	8th & Court Sts

	Junior	E2 E2A	Vine & Walnut Sts
04/14/1829	Neversink	E3 E3A	3rd & Court Sts
	Friendship	E4 E4A R1	Franklin & Peach Sts
	Liberty	E5 E5A	
07/04/1819	Reading Hose	E6 E6A S1	Plum & Franklin Sts
	Washington	E7 L2	
	Keystone	E8 L1	2nd & Penn Sts
	Hampden	E9 E9A	
	Marion	E10 L3	9th & Marion Sts
	Riverside	E11	
	Schuykill	E12 E12AL4	Schuykill Av & Green Street
	Union	E13 Brush1	15th & Muhlenberg Sts
	Oakbrook	E14	

I have some photos of the Rex Laurel, Vigilant and Goodwill companies in York, PA from my visit there back in 2009. Take a look here:
<https://picasaweb.google.com/tangerine.james/YorkPAFirehouses>

I definitely recommend a trip to York. I haven't been to Reading yet ... it's on my list. I'd love to see some new photos of their current and historic stations – I believe they just dedicated a new fire station last year (?).

-Trevor

Trevor James ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/18/11 - 11:21

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.

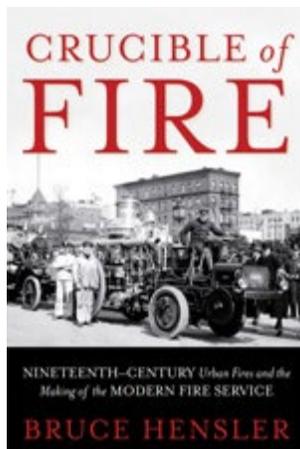
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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.

Crucible of Fire by Bruce Hensler

07/17/11 118 W, 1 I - + 7 - 2

New on the blogger's bookshelf is *Crucible of Fire: Nineteenth-Century Urban Fires and the Making of the Modern Fire Service* by Bruce Hepler, a firefighter with over three decades of experience in roles both on the line and in senior positions. Book details: cloth-bound, 260 pages, 6 by 9 inches, 29 black-and-white images. Book descriptions are available on both the author's web site ([longer](#)) and the publisher's web site ([shorter](#)). Robust bibliography, and it shows in the citations and research. But... how is the book? Fantastic so far. Have read about a fifth of the thing. Will a book review appear later? Perhaps, but why wait to start reading?



Speaking of excellent books, I'm reading Dave Houseal's new release "They Come in Threes". This is his concluding work in a trilogy on firefighting in Harrisburg, PA for the Harrisburg Bureau of Fire and Progress Fire Company (amongst many other local Central PA volunteer & city departments). Excellent writing in the style of Dennis Smith and Leo Stapleton. Highly recommended. More about the book on the publisher, DMC's site:

<http://www.dmcfirebooks.com/>

-Trevor

Trevor James ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/18/11 - 15:11

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Which Web Sites Are Which?

07/17/11 329 W - + 4 - 4

Okay, which web sites are which, for this blog and information about local fire departments and fire scene photos by Mike and Lee and anything else about Yours Truly. Here's a quick road map. Oddly, I have no trouble keeping up with which site is which...

Social Media

- [Raleigh/Wake Firefighting Blog](#) - This blog, and easily accessed from www.legeros.com/blog.
- [Raleigh/Wake Firefighting Blog Fan Page on Facebook](#) - Rebroadcast of blog posts.
- [Legeros on Twitter](#) - Microblog with both new content and rebroadcast links of blog posts and incident photos.
- [Legeros on Facebook](#) - My personal profile page. Unavailable to general public. You have to friend me.

Incident Photos

- [Raleigh/Wake Firefighting Incident and Event Photos](#) - Landing page for scene photos by Lee Wilson and Mike Legeros, and easily accessed from www.legeros.com/firepics.
- [Lee Wilson on Flickr](#) - Where Lee posts his pictures, and that's linked from the above fire photo site.
- [Legeros on Flickr](#) - Where Legeros posts other photos, and some older photos. It's not linked from the above fire photo site.

Information/History

- [Raleigh/Wake County Fire Departments](#) - Landing page for unofficial information about same. Really, the only up-to-date information is about the Raleigh Fire Department. The content about Cary, airport, and county fire departments is older or much older.
- [Raleigh Fire Department \(Unofficial\)](#) - My information about the department. Kept reasonably up to date.
- [Raleigh Fire Department History](#) - My historical information about same. Now we're getting to the good stuff!
- [Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society](#) - Different site, with exclusive content including hundreds of historical photos.
- [Raleigh Fire Department News](#) - Landing page about the Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter, which is produced in collaboration with myself and the department.
- [History by Mike Legeros](#) - Landing page for historical information, including local, statewide, and select major cities around the country.

Shameless Self-Promotion

- [Mike Legeros](#) - My home page at www.legeros.com.

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Mystery Compound

07/17/11 27 W, 1 I - + 3 - 5

Double row of fences. Trees behind second set of fences. Structure(s) of some sort in the distance.



Old Prison on Blue Ridge Road across from the Fair???

Might Know - 07/17/11 - 13:19

Dix?

2redline - 07/17/11 - 15:47

Westbound Lake Wheeler Rd coming from downtown. Bravo Side of Dorthia Dix.

Beach ([Email](#)) - 07/17/11 - 17:55

I think Beach is correct.

BE - 07/18/11 - 12:09

Beach got it. I saw it this morning on my way into downtown.

Duda ([Email](#)) - 07/23/11 - 00:54

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Night Photography on Churchill Drive

07/18/11 292 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

Lee Wilson took this photo Sunday morning on Churchill Road, scene of a vehicle fire under a carport. Flames extended into the house. Engine 6 was first on scene. Dispatched about 3:43 a.m. and controlled in about 30 minutes. [See all the photos](#), which includes a full description of the incident. Read below for an amusing and incorrect supposition about the use of flash in this picture...



Lee Wilson photo

This continued the original post, which we learned was incorrect! No flash was used, but it's a nice explanation nonetheless. See what happens when you work without all the facts!

As for the photo below, it's a nice example of the challenges of night photography. He's using his flash, which is why the guys on the roof are glowing. That's their reflective striping. The striping on the firefighters in the foreground is also glowing, but not as strong. The scene and the shot is also being lit from the portable light, before the car port. Without that light, the shot would likely be darker except for bright bands of reflective striping.

Also on the far right side of the frame, there's a blurred portion of a firefighter. He's in motion and there wasn't enough light from the flash (or other sources) to "freeze" him in action. Notice the firefighter under the carport, also. His reflective striping isn't glowing nearly as much, which is due to the floodlight already saturating him with light.

Mind you, Yours Truly wasn't on scene, so this is all photographer quarterbacking, in a manner of speaking. (Feel free to rake me over the coals for such speculative explanations...) Night shots are tough. Scene lighting helps, and more than you might think!

D'oh! Original posting updated accordingly. Should've looked at the EXIF data on the pic, which would've indicated flash or no flash.

Legeros - 07/19/11 - 07:53

The Rake

07/18/11 44 W, 1 I - + 6 - 3

Bay Leaf firefighter with fire rake at a woods fire off Farington Drive off Six Forks Road earlier this evening. BLFD equested with brush truck to assist Raleigh engine and mini-pumper with about an acre of burned area. Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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

Sending Better E-Mail

07/18/11 164 W - + 7 - 3

Since we're talking about communication these days, how about some tips on sending better e-mail. What, you think you're a pro already? Can you hold a moment, while I fall over laughing? Even Mr. Blogger, who sits at a computer for most of his waking hours, is an avowed idiot with electronic communication. We all are. We all send too damn much of the stuff. And we certainly receive more than we care for, right?

E-mail is simply too easy to send. What's the solution, then? Also easy. Step #1. Pay attention to your e-mail sending. Step #2. Repeat Step #1. Here are two things to read on this matter. First is a blog posting from Seth Godin, [his personal e-mail checklist](#). Second is a [bonafide e-mail charter](#), part of a greater movement to "save our inbox." Here's a quote from Godin that really says it all: "If I had to pay 42 cents to send this email, would I?"

Here's some links with some hints on email that we can probably all do well to try and remember:

<http://blogs.msdn.com/b/oldnewthing/arch..>

<http://blogs.msdn.com/b/oldnewthing/arch..>

<http://blogs.msdn.com/b/oldnewthing/arch..>

Paul - 07/19/11 - 09:35

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.

Morning Fire Report - Rand Road Elementary

07/19/11 187 W - + 5 - 6

Couple fires overnight. Capital Towers on Six Forks Road in Raleigh, out on arrival but with a number of residents affected by smoke. Likely an extended EMS operation. Just before midnight. House fire on Turner Fish Road, out Fuquay way. Mid-morning, for that one. And Rand Road Elementary School on Arbor Green Drive in Garner, with fire in a classroom and smoke through the building about 5:00 a.m. Local news crews are reporting various levels of detail. Let's take a survey below. Meanwhile, the weather today is hot, hot, hot. Stay hydrated!

[WRAL](#) - Three paragraphs. Fire and heavy school. Reported shortly after 5 a.m. Contained to one classroom. Smoke filled other parts of the building. Extent of damage not yet reported. One photo.

[WTVB](#) - Five paragraphs. Garner and Fairview fire departments. Arrived just after 5 a.m. Fire damaged one classroom. Cause unclear. School not in session. Year-round school. Classes start August 1. One aerial photo.

[NBC 17](#) - Five paragraphs. Fire is out. Contained to one building. Cause under investigation. One photo.

News 14 - Not found on [web site](#).

Was Wake Forest's burning. Fuquay's was out the roof on arrival.

911 - 07/19/11 - 17:47

Fuquay had 3 working fires yesterday one was in Harnett Co. and the other where in willow spring

firefighter - 07/19/11 - 19:04

Yeah fuquay Had 3 yesterday. One abandoned farm house on the ground upon arrival, Small fire under a house with Northwest harnet, which they were first in on. And a 69d6 with multiple calls, fire showing upon arrival.

The Real Deal - 07/19/11 - 21:29

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'?

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

Greensboro's New Flatbed Foam Unit

07/20/11 112 W, 1 I - + 4 - 3

Found via Facebook via [FireNews](#) via the *News-Record*, check out this piece of unusual apparatus that the Greensboro Fire Department has placed in service. It's a flatbed foam unit, equipped with eight vats of foam concentrate. The things are pallet-loaded, and even carries its own forklift.

The unit is one of the outcomes of last year's Colonial Pipeline gasoline tank fire that Greensboro and mutual aid departments fought on June 13, 2010. [Notes the News-Record story](#), GFD has added more training and new equipment to fight tank fires. Maybe readers can tell more about this unit, its capabilities, and where its housed.



Lynn Hey/News-Record 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'?

Bells and Towers and Clappers, Oh My!

07/21/11 91 W, 10 I - + 5 - 4

Reporting from the road and the day after explorations in York, PA. They have a number of historic firehouses, both active and retired. Most of those have bell towers, which were also used as hose towers. Here are some photos, including documentation of climbing the two-story tower of old Rescue Company station. (The building is three stories, itself.) The bell is presently sitting outside the York County Fire Museum, which is the old Royal Company station. More later. Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

World Trade Center Steel From 9/11 at Nash Square, Sunday, July 24

07/22/11 162 W - + 8 - 1

On Sunday, July 24, at 11:00 a.m. in downtown Raleigh, please join Wake County Commissioners Chairman Paul Coble in welcoming [The Terry Farrell Firefighters Fund](#), as they escort a piece of recovered steel from the World Trade Center on a national tour. Raleigh is the first stop along the twelve-day, cross-country tour that ends at the San Diego Fire Muesum. The ceremony is open to the public and will be held at Nash Square, which is located at the intersection of Hargett and Dawson streets. The support and presence of the public safety community is greatly appreciated, as the 10th anniversary of 9/11 is rapidly approaching. Feel free to bring family and friends, and spread the word of this announcement as desired. The steel will be on display and photos may be taken. For more information, contact Seth Komansky at Seth.Komansky@WakeGov.com.

WRAL posted this video segment of this event: <http://www.wral.com/news/local/video/990..>

Legeros - 07/25/11 - 08:35

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.

Caption This Photo / All Ages Show

07/22/11 141 W, 2 I - + 7 - 4

These enthusiastic fans were awaiting entry into the Sovereign Center in downtown Reading, PA, on Wednesday night. The concert was a double-bill of Rob Zombie and Slayer, plus Exodus as opening act. First night for the tour, which is heading to Canada after a couple domestic dates. The Reading Fire Department stood by. Saw an engine parked outside all night, along with one or two medical units. In addition to this father-and-son shot, here's a crappy phone photo of Zombie's stage set. Without the leaping flames, however. Those didn't capture well. This pic's suitable for all ages, as was the concert (or at least, as billed). Later songs added naked-ness on the video screens. We'll leave that to your imagination. Go, go, Zombie. Click to enlarge:

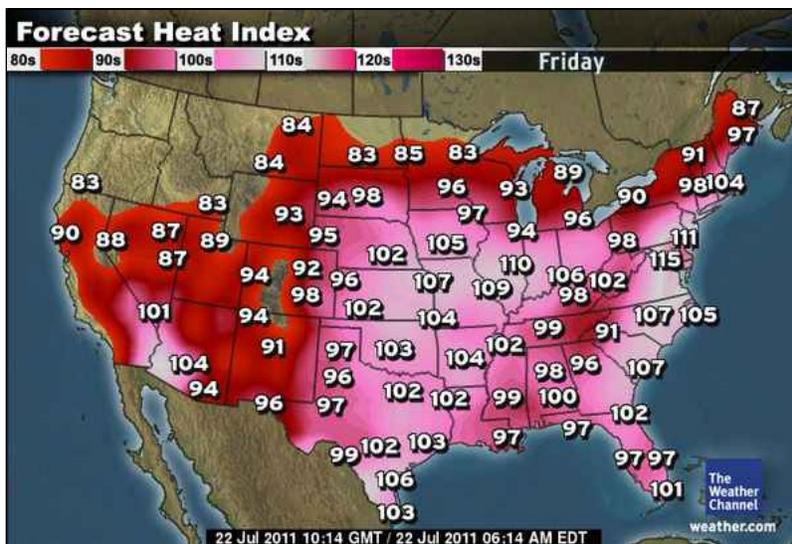


SLAYER!!!!!!...that is all. m/
Jake T. - 07/22/11 - 12:49

Happy Hot Friday

07/22/11 25 W, 1 I - + 6 - 3

And some of us schmucks are sitting smack dab in the hottest hot zone, northern Virginia and Maryland. Oy.



Hey, have you heard it's supposed to be hot? I think I heard something on the news about it..

wcff - 07/22/11 - 09:17

its cooler in Arizona than it is here....

Weather Channel - 07/22/11 - 17:57

Breaking news, just in.... it's even hotter now.

Legeros - 07/22/11 - 18:07

Dang Global Warming!

Rescue Ranger - 07/22/11 - 18:33

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

Foam House

07/22/11 40 W, 2 I - + 4 - 7

Seen among the marine facilities in Baltimore's harbor. Sign on the side of the building reads "fire department foam connections." Wonder what's inside?



Mike,
do you have a better picture of the valve on the side of that building?

Adam - 07/23/11 - 20:48

Not really, Adam. I have added a second, enlarged view.

Legeros - 07/24/11 - 01:32

Wilmington Firefighters Privy to Unusual Rescue

07/22/11 131 W, 1 I - + 4 - 5

The Wilmington Fire Department this week rescued a man who became buried in a hole behind his house. On Tuesday evening, he was searching for antique bottles in the space once covered by the smallest building on his property. Said space caved in about 6:00 p.m., burying the man in sand up to his chest. The fire department's Tactical Rescue Team responded, among other units. As a WECT story notes, the team members dug out the sand, stabilized the hole, placed a harness around the victim, and lifted him out. The victim was transported, treated, and released, and appears to be fine. [Read the story](#), which includes a few photos. Be careful where you dig! Thanks Ryan, for passing along.



WECT 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'?

Will Blog For Food

07/22/11 178 W, 1 I - + 5 - 4

Several fire bloggers were among the attendees at a firefighter's meet-up Thursday night in downtown Baltimore, at the Uno's on the waterfront. That's but a couple blocks from the convention center, where the Firehouse Expo is underway. (They even raised the temperature in town, to make everyone feel at home in the heat.)

Photographer Stanley Jaworski braved lens breakage by snapping this stunning group shot. Could they be a more handsome group? Among the outlaws, in-laws, crooks, and straights are the talents behind [Statter911](#), [Firegeezer](#), [The Fire Critic](#), [FireNews.Net](#), [Firefighter NetCast](#), [Fire Truck Blog](#), [Iron Firemen](#), [VA Fire News](#), and [Raleigh/Wake County Firefighting Blog](#), which we'll just simplify and call the Legeros Fire Blog. (Who or what site is missing?) Great fun, great fellowship. Click to enlarge:



Stanley Jaworski photo

The event benefited the [National Fallen Firefighters Foundation](#), and was sponsored by [Wall Shields](#) and [Firefighter Monopoly](#), and presented by [FirefighterNation.com](#), [FireEMSblogs.com](#) and [FireRescue Magazine](#). Was that everyone? Thanks for the fun event, and for a good cause.

I think that was the easiest game of "Wheres Waldo" I've ever played.

Jake T. - 07/23/11 - 11:33

"I've" following your quote does not need to be capitalized. No martin guitar for you.

grammar - 07/23/11 - 12:42

Also Jake, call me when you get a chance.

grammar - 07/23/11 - 12:43

Mike you forgot the FDlive-in guys the two young ones up front.

PGtruckie ([Email](#)) - 07/24/11 - 23:00

Name: (real name
preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes

Climbing The Stick

07/23/11 112 W, 2 I - + 5 - 4

Here are a couple shots from a four-alarm fire this morning in Curtis Bay, south of downtown Baltimore. One-story warehouse with haz-mats. Baltimore City Fire Department, with some Anne Arundel County units. The city even brought out the "water tower," the Snorkel. These shots are about 2.5 hours into the incident. Brief stop on my way to the convention center. Attended 8:30 a.m. panel on social media. More on that, later. More photos, later. Thanks Stan and Jeff for the heads-up. Guess I'll bring a radio with me next year.

[Photos now posted.](#)



The BCFD aerial ops pics depict a "Ladder Pipe" fed by a 3" hose. We don't see that much anymore as pre-piped waterways are now the norm.
A.C. Rich - 07/23/11 - 19:06

Ahhh. Reminds me of the Seagrave. Except the ropes never worked once the water started flowing.

gen3fire - 07/24/11 - 08:30

Okay gang, tell about your first times on the tip (at a fire), either stick or bucket. Good Sunday conversation starter...

Legeros - 07/24/11 - 08:51

Ok, I'll start... RFD Truck 1 (Snorkel) at the Wake Co. Courthouse fire in 1990. I was in the bucket as a FF with FF2 (Lt.) Alex Averette and we were venting windows on the 4th/5th floors on the A-side. The Snorkel would barely make the windows and had a limited reach due to the articulated boom. There were no aerial ops with water flow though. Truck 8 (ALF mid-mount) was positioned on the Fayetteville St. (Mall) side for the same function. Have a safe Sunday all!

A.C. Rich - 07/24/11 - 09:33

Pic of Mr. Rich in action: <http://raleighfirehistory.org/photos/dah..>

Legeros - 07/24/11 - 09:40

Haha! That was a while ago... Here's a pic of D. Deyo on T-8 (Fayetteville St. Mall side): <http://raleighfirehistory.org/photos/dah..>

A.C. Rich - 07/24/11 - 10:19

Mike posted the pictures this morning: <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/20..>

Mrs. Blogger - 07/25/11 - 10:33

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.

Baltimore's Smoke Detector Program

07/24/11 276 W - + 4 - 4

Caught this inside a [Firehouse.com article](#) and Expo recap titled *Chiefs Discuss Good, Bad and Ugly at Firehouse Expo*, subtitled *The fire service is feeling the effects of the economy and chief officers have had to make adjustments*. It contains summary statements about the Baltimore Fire Department's smoke detector program. It also resonates with me after hearing a great presentation on Friday about public education and proactive safety for citizens. Saving lives (and preventing and reducing injuries) before the fact. Before the fire starts. More on that later, along the lines of Fire Warriors as Fire Protectors. Can you handle such a shift?

[Fire Chief Jim] Clack said Baltimore firefighters have installed 250,000 smoke detectors in the city and is about to go out to install another 10,000. The project, which is funded principally with grant money, gets firefighters out into the community and he's certain it has helped save lives.

Baltimore plans to step up the initiative with a dedicated phone number, 311, which, when called, will dispatch firefighters to the residence in two hours or less to install smoke detectors immediately.

"We'll be handling the calls like a non-emergency response," Clack said, noting that up to 40 smoke detectors and batteries and screw guns are kept in each engine and some are in virtually every department vehicle in the fleet.

He said Baltimore has a significant substance abuse problem and it's important that smoke detectors be installed to alert people and hopefully save lives. Fire deaths had been averaging 25 annually in the city, but it was down to 6 this year which is on track for a 50 percent reduction.

Wonder how many fire department budgets contain money for smoke detector programs, versus requiring/relying upon grant programs? Is it the progressive department that pushes such programs to the foreground, and gets the same priority for funding as operations programs? Did I just answer my own question?

Legeros - 07/24/11 - 09:24

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

Morning in Rockville

07/24/11 229 W, 1 I - + 6 - 3

Good morning Raleigh. Saw this station while making the vacation rounds today. The engine house says Rockville Volunteer Fire Department. The aerial tower says Montgomery County, MD. What's going on here? Allow some speculation. County-wide fire department in effect, most likely. At some point in the past, Rockville had their own fire department. Maybe still does on paper, or in part.

The county also has a fire department, or perhaps just a fire department infrastructure. Maybe they're paying for the trucks and the staffing, alone. Maybe they're funding and running the whole enchilada. Noticed three-digit numbers on the vehicles, suggesting county-wide numbering. I realize that Google would answer these questions pretty near immediately, but speculation is kinda fun. Plus it engages the reader, and results in conversation.

In Anne Arundel County, outside Baltimore, some of those trucks bear the name of the community they protect, like Brooklyn. That's also the name-- if my memory of the area's fire service is correct-- of the former fire department that served that area. Maybe or maybe certainly we'll see that in our parts. Where a Wake County Fire Department will have trucks and people stationed in unincorporated areas-- and maybe even some municipalities-- and the trucks will also bear the community/former department's name. Bay Leaf. Stony Hill. Fairview. etc.



Well I can answer a bunch of those questions as my Dad worked at that station for his last 14 years in the fire service before retiring from Mont Co Fire Rescue. That is station 23 (known as the boulder) on Rollins Ave right across the street from putt putt and right off of Rockville Pike. I have some very fond memories in that firehouse and have even been fortunate enough to fight fire and run calls both on the tower and engine there.

MoCo has a county wide fire dept. Roughly 20 years ago Mont Co was just like Wake Co in that all of these individual VFD's were providing fire protection and many already had paid staff. The county took in all of the employees making them county employees. The individual depts still exist and in many cases still own the firehouses. The trucks that are now in service are county owned and the vast majority are staffed with 3-4 county ff's. Some stations still have vollys that run duty crews or in the case of stations 14,9 and a one other they can respond from home to get out a 2nd piece. This particular station does not have any vollys although station 3 (Rockville's HQ station) still has vollys and some are live in.

The county there runs the entire show. There are county wide SOG's and all of the volunteer leadership must abide by those. If they choose not to then you run into a situation that happened earlier this year at station 15 Burtonsville (if my memory is correct) where the VFD

leadership wasn't abiding by the county fire's rules and policies so the Chief came in and removed the leadership of Burtonsville and put more paid staffing there.

Mont Co is part of partnership formed with DCFD, PG Co and a at least one other county. They use closest unit response with only staffed apparatus shown as in service. So in the Silver Spring area or Hillendale area it is not uncommon to get a ladder company, engine or rescue squad from PGFD or DCFD on the run card. Because of this and NIMS all these depts have 3 digit apparatus numbers and if they are responding with outside counties they have a separate number. It can be alittle confusing unless you are used to seeing it or hearing it. So in the picture above you have shown Tower 23 and the engine is number 231 but if the engine goes with another county it becomes engine 723 and PG co's apparatus start with an 8 and DC with a 6 I believe. The reason for the engine being number 231 instead of engine 23 is that at stations like station 3 they have multiple engines. So if the volly's show up then they can mark a 2nd engine in service. So with station 3 it is engine 31, if a 2nd one gets put into service then it is numbered engine 32.

The union here is pretty strong, so although Maryland is a right to work state like NC their municipalities recognize the unions. All employees there are represented by the union. Meaning that when you get hired, you don't have to join the union but you do have to sign paperwork stating that you will allow the union to represent you in all contract negioations. The employees there work on a contract with the county. The county runs the fire and ems. This particular station in the picture has a 4 man engine, 4 man tower, 2 man bls ambulance and a 2 man als ambulance. So if they are fully staffed then it makes for a crowded supper table. Mont Co also runs als engines or als trucks. On my Dad's shift the tower had a paramedic on it. All employees are crossed trained by the way. So if the bls bus went out on a call and it turned into an als call then the tower would respond with the paramedic. If it came out as an als call then the als bus would respond along with the engine for manpower like we do here in Wake Co. This seems to work very well for their system. The only issue they have with ems is that patient's there don't pay to be transported. The county tried to establish a transport fee this past election but the volunteers politiced hard against it and the voters voted it down.

The apparatus still have the name of the volly house that they respond out of on them. So on that tower it will say Rockville VFD but the patch on the capt's door is the county fire rescue patch. You also probably find a union sticker on one of the windows of the truck if I had to place my bet. I think that answers most of the questions without the assistance of google or the website for Rockville VFD, <http://www.rvfd.com>

Mike - 07/24/11 - 12:12

Montgomery county is part of a Cog agreement covering the metro DC area numbers for apparatus are designated using a 3 digit system as follows: 0- DC,1- Alexandria, 2- Arlington, 3- MWAA, 4-Fairfax, 5- prince William, 6- loudon, 7- Montgomery, and 8- PG. The apparatus with the volunteer name on it was likely purchased by the volunteer company.

corrections - 07/24/11 - 17:41

I just passed through that town yestreday really liked it, very nice little town.

CMAC - 07/25/11 - 23:45

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'?

Aerial Mapping at Command Post

07/24/11 67 W, 2 I - + 4 - 2

Here's another couple pictures from yesterday's four-alarm fire in Baltimore. Mobile command post, and with enlarged aerial maps noting hydrant locations. They were using at least five hydrants at the fire. Digital imagery, satellite data, and mobile printing is easier than ever these days.

[Photos now posted.](#)



Was this the 4 banger they had Saturday morning?

PGtruckie ([Email](#)) - 07/24/11 - 22:51

Mike posted the pictures this morning: <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/20..>

Mrs. Blogger - 07/25/11 - 10:34

NO WAY!!!... AACoFD and BCFD working together, seamlessly... on a 4 banger? lessons to be learned!

shevais - 07/26/11 - 00:06

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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.

Old Butner Engine For Sale

07/25/11 81 W, 1 I - + 6 - 3

From a reader, here's a Butner Public Safety pumper [for sale on Craigslist](#). That's a 1960 International Harvester/American LaFrance pumper, 1000 GPM. The seller says it's been parked for years, but the engine is believed strong. We've also blogged before about the history of Butner Public Safety, in previous posts [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#). Wonder what the rest of their fleet looked like, when that pumper was presumably purchased new?



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'?

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

Sealed Fire Stations

07/25/11 77 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

So what's your lighting and window preference for fire station living areas? Natural light, with lots of windows, and the shades always raised? Overheads only, with the curtains down, or, even better, as few windows as possible? Or maybe you're somewhere in-between... Below is Station 2 in York, PA. That's the Vigilant Fire Company. Exactly one window outside of the apparatus floor. Now that's a sealed fire station!



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.

Back From Vacation

07/26/11 543 W - + 5 - 5

Here's what's floating around my brain, on the first day returning to work, life, and regular blogging:

- Stan Jaworski [posted some pics](#) from that four-alarm fire in Baltimore last week. Thanks for sharing Stan, and thanks for the heads-up on the fire that morning. [My pics were posted](#) Sunday. As usual, I overshot the scene something fierce.
- Said fire was my first on-scene experience in Baltimore. First big-city fire, in fact, in many, many years. Last one was maybe 15 or 18 years ago in Minneapolis. The Baltimore incident spread across a number of blocks, between the many hydrants, the various staging locations, and residents watching and walking through.
- What other photos were taken on the trip, that are coming soon? Historic firehouses of York, PA. Several dozen on the floor of the Fire Expo. Quite a few at the booth of FireGeezer and Dave Statter. As for the concert pics, we'll post those on Facebook, probably. Rock on.
- There are posted pictures somewhere from the Terry Farrell Firefighters Fund event at Nash Square on Sunday, seen via a link found on Facebook. Can't find the thing this morning. Maybe someone will post.
- One of the workshops attended at the Fire Expo was as panel discussion on social media. One of the topics was reputation management, and, particularly, the future career impact of your present online behavior. Is that something you young bucks (or even the old farts) think about? The *N&O* had a recent story on the subject, maybe reprinting a recent *NY Times* article. Can't find that thing this morning, either.
- Took notes at the above workshop, plus one on public relations in fire prevention. My intention is to transcribe my notes, and post them here. Will the notes fairly represent the speakers, and the content of the workshops? Have no idea. Probably need a big, fat disclaimer.
- [The Avent Ferry fire discussion](#). That one's still rolling. What have learned about ourselves, in this latest covering of familiar ground? That post was generated while on the road, alas. The incident description evolved, and moved from less to more descriptive over time. Was that fair? Should the thing have waited, and been initiated days later?
- [The Falls fundraiser discussion](#). That one's been interesting. We're getting a citizen perspective on issues **as presented on this blog**. Note the bold text just then. Always remember that this blog (and the content therein) is but one window or type of window into the local fire service. There's always more information, and additional sides to the stories.
- [The Harnett County plane crash](#). Some times we score, and are deluged with facts but without controversy-spawning speculation. Thanks readers, for fleshing out the context to that incident. Since I am neither a reporter nor full-time blogger, my questions and your answers are a welcome alternate to what otherwise require calls and contacts and summary writing.
- [Renaming the blog](#). Great suggestions, everyone. Right now, the simplest choice for naming the blog (which is not the same as the web address) is probably Legeros Fire Blog. But what about the web address, e.g. the domain name? Legeros.com/blog gets you there, but something like legerosfire.com would be even simpler. Still thinking on this one.

Add:

- The deleted comment. Why was a comment deleted, within the Avent Ferry fire discussion? Here's a slightly longer explanation. An anonymous user posted a question about a named user. They were asking about/calling attention to the second party's comments on the blog. The posted question was worded with more antagonism that I was comfortable with, at that time. I suggested to the user— and suggest to all users— that questions about other users be phrased as direct questions to them. And, obviously, be more polite than otherwise. Alternately, you can ask for a user's contact information, and ask them the question off of the blog. But, you know, "calling out in public" is perhaps more compelling to some folks, than asking a private question. As always, be advised, just mail me with questions about your own postings, future postings, my postings, etc.

Legeros - 07/26/11 - 08:31

Add:

- Had some ideas, while driving, of maybe adding guest bloggers. Calling for postings, and inviting users/readers to write or talk about something. The only catch: you'd have to sign your name. I would edit for clarity, but otherwise publish as presented. And we'd include a disclaimer that you were (a.) speaking for yourself or (b.) speaking as a representative of some organization. Wonder if that would fly? Meaning, would anyone want to submit anything? I think this blog has WAY more interested readers/lurkers than participating posters. Still mulling. But do keep shooting me ideas for topics, announcements to post, news stories that have caught your eye, and such.

Legeros - 07/26/11 - 08:36

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.

Six Days Later

07/26/11 73 W, 1 I - + 5 - 4

Three apartment buildings, each about 5,000 square-feet. Sharing a common attic space. Arriving units found fire through the roof of the middle-first/left building. The fire was attacked from both ends, with aerial stream on the first building (foreground), and interior lines in the attack in the third building (background). Heavy fire on a hot day. [Read prior details and discussion](#). See [Lee Wilson's scene photos](#). Click to enlarge:



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.

NCSU Fire Protection Vehicle

07/26/11 127 W, 1 I - + 4 - 6

This photo was posted as [part of this NBC 17 story](#) about this morning's smoky-but-small electrical fire at McKimmon Center. Engine 8 arrived with heavy smoke and a quickly controlled fire in the rear of the building. Smoke removal took considerably longer, and two additional ladder companies were utilized. Talk about a fan club! Where was Legeros, cough cough, who heads that way every workday morning? You wouldn't believe the excuse if we told it. The below unit is part of North Carolina State University's [Fire Protection](#) services. Believe it responds to all fire calls on campus, and probably many medical calls, as well. As usual, we welcome reader facts to supplement blogger supposition.

[See photo and videos from this incident.](#)



NBC 17 photo

As a member of NC State Fire Marshal's Office I can shed some light: NC State's Fire Marshal's Office (Formally known as Fire Protection) does respond to all emergencies on campus including medical, fire, and haz-mat. Staffed by 1 Fire Marshal and 4 Deputy Fire Marshal's who are all EMT's and come from professional fire careers. Fire suppression is contracted to Raleigh Fire Department, who is always welcome on campus and has a great working relationship with the Fire Marshal's Office. On the McKimmon Center Fire, NCSU was first on scene and communicated with Raleigh Engine 8 and Battalion 3 on fire conditions, evacuation procedures, and hydrant location prior to their arrival that lead to a very quick and smooth fire attack.

Ben Davis - 07/27/11 - 09:43

And to think of all days to take the day off, I took that day off. :-(My office is 40 feet to the left of the ladder on the 2nd floor. I will have to wait and break in my HD camcorder another day.

2redline - 07/27/11 - 12:29

Not all NCSU property is handle by Raleigh Fire. Carter Finely Stadium, the Murphy Center, and numerous properties down Trinity and Trenton Rd are covered by Western Wake Fire alone. WW also provides auto aid to the NCSU Vet School and the Equine Center on Reedy Creek. Not picking anything here, just remembering the little guy.

ww - 02/12/12 - 22:31

Historic Firehouses of York, PA

07/26/11 189 W, 1 I - + 8 - 3

Plus one that's newer, built in 1974. Photographed last week, while en route to Reading for a very heavy rock concert. Station 1, the Rex/Laurel firehouse, is reportedly the oldest continuously operating fire station in the United States. It's also slated for closure, along with Station 5. City officials are proposing building a new, combined station for the two engine companies.

- Station 1 - Rex/Laurel - 49 South Duke Street - Built 1878
- Station 2 - Vigilant - 273 West Mark Street - Built 1974
- Station 4, Old - Rescue - 300 block George Street - Built 1874 - Closed 1970
- Station 5- Goodwill - 833 East Market Street - Built 1903
- Station 6, Old - Royal - 757 West Market Street - Built 1903 - Closed ?
- Station 7, Old - Eagle - Jackson Street at Jessop Street - Built 1912 - Closed ?
- Station 9 - Lincoln - 800 Roosevelt Avenue - Built 1946

[Take the photo tour](#), posted to my Flickr site. Or learn more about the [York Fire Department](#), where they still operate Gamewell boxes. And run two-person (!) engine companies, supplemented by volunteer members. Their fire department dates to the first brigade formed in 1771.



Those are some beautiful old firehouses.

Mike - 07/27/11 - 20:24

Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter, Summer 2011

07/27/11 100 W, 2 I - + 6 - 5

The summer 2011 edition of the *Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter* has been posted to the web site raleighfirenews.org. The contents include: New Radio Procedures Start; Two Alarms on Avent Ferry; Emergency Fire Dispatch; Office Upgrade for Division Chief; Rotation of Command; New Decon Trailer Delivered; Orientation for Fire Inspectors; Budget Adopted; More Solar Systems Installed; Charity Events; Raleigh Fire Museum Opens; Fire Prevention Code Revised. [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:



Well done Mike! Great edition!

A.C. Rich - 07/28/11 - 00:30

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
 No

Comment:

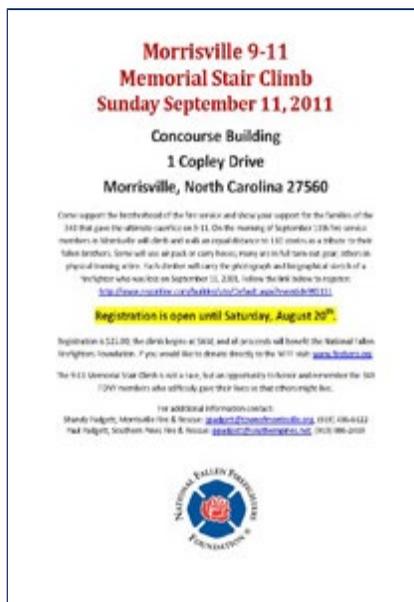
/ [Textile](#)

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.

Morrisville 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb, Sunday, September 11

07/28/11 75 W, 1 I - + 11 - 7

[Here's a flier with information](#) about the Morrisville Fire Department's 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb on Sunday, September 11. The event starts at 9:00 a.m., and proceeds benefit the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Memorial stair climbs are planned around the nation, including two others in North Carolina. [Registration for the Morrisville stair climb](#) is open until Saturday, August 20. [Here's a prior posting](#) about the event. Click to view this PDF-format flier:



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'?

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

South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo Almost Here

07/28/11 282 W, 1 I - + 6 - 5

And then it was August. The Raleigh Fire Expo starts in two more weeks, e.g. the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#) at the Raleigh Convention Center. That's the umbrella name for three concurrent events, the annual meeting of the state firefighter's association, the annual meeting of the state fire chief's association, and the annual expo for vendors and dealers and other interested parties.

Yours Truly, Historian Mike Legeros, is again conducting his workshop on North Carolina Firefighting History. That's 90 minutes of hysterical, historical excitement on Friday, August 12, starting at 1:30 p.m. [See slides from last year's presentation](#), which will also include a short segment on researching fire department histories. What about a presentation on incident photography? Or social media and blogging? Maybe another year. (Either might be great panel discussions. Any volunteers to share the stage?) Here are some photo's of Mike's, [from last year's Expo](#).



Here's everything that's happening, from the [program schedule](#). Plus a plug for the Raleigh Fire Department Museum, which will be open that Saturday, and with shuttle service from the Convention Center:

- **Tuesday, Aug. 9**
Golf Tournament, Wake County Firefighters Association Meeting, Chief 101 Class (continues next day)
- **Wednesday, Aug. 10**
Golf Tournament, Pre-Conference Workshops, Chief 101 Class (second day), Meetings
- **Thursday, Aug. 11**
Breakfast, Opening Session, Keynote by Bill Cowher, Meetings, Memorial Service
- **Friday, Aug. 12**
Workshops, Meetings, Exhibit Hall Open
- **Saturday, Aug. 13**
Workshops, Meetings, Exhibit Hall Open, Motorcycle Ride, Apparatus Parade (now at 9:00 a.m.), Charlotte Steamer Demonstration (!), Haz-Mat Challenge, Evening Banquet
Plus: [Raleigh Fire Department Museum](#) (located at the nearby Keeter Training Center) open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., with shuttle service from Convention Center
- **Sunday, Aug. 14**
Meetings, Devotional

The shadowed NCSFA SAFRE slogan poster "Commitment" for 2011 is a Lee Wilson photo featuring Stony Hill firefighters – from a SHFD live

burn at night in Oct 2010. Wake is represented again and I am proud! <http://www.southatlanticfirerescueexpo.c.>

A.C> Rich - 07/28/11 - 12:02

Nice Lee Wilson Shot A.C.! Somehow I never saw that specific shot but glad Jeff has it in the poster! Can't wait to attend the Expo!

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/28/11 - 13:38

Here ya go. From Lee's archives: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/leewilson/5..>

A.C. Rich - 07/28/11 - 14:51

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.

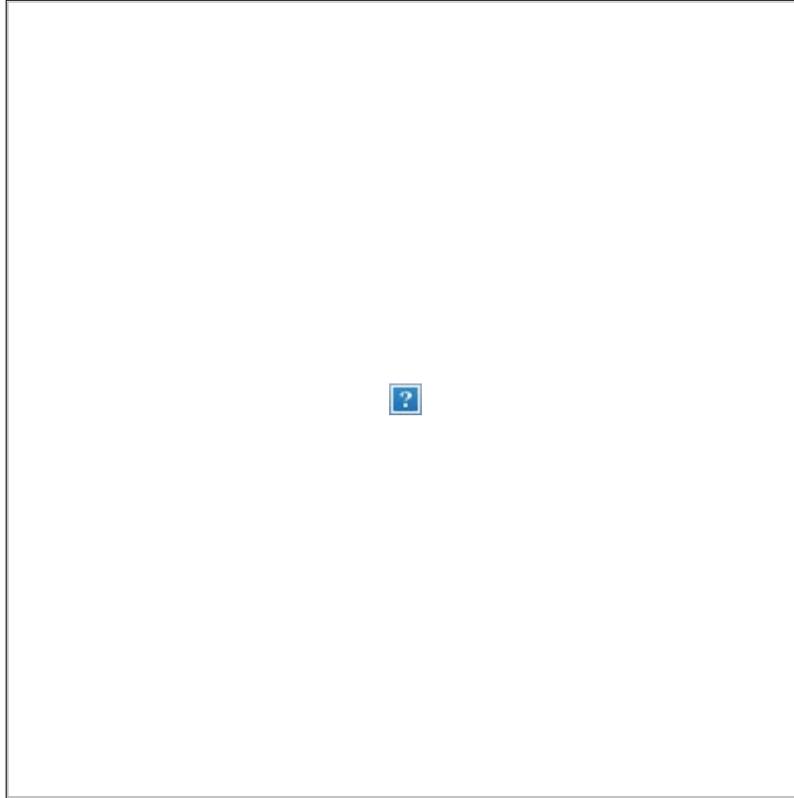
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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.

Caption This Photo / Fire on Flatbed

07/28/11 45 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

[As posted in this FireNews story](#), showing the Steele Creek Fire Department in action against a blazing bulldozer. What are some of the more unusual vehicle fires that you have fought in your day?



Christopher Hardin/FireNews photo

Cough , cough. I think the fuel mixture if off.

Dove ([Email](#)) - 07/28/11 - 09:21

Yeah I would say that's running a little rich.

BLJL - 07/28/11 - 12:37

I've had a Jet Ski fire. It was actually two jet skis on a trailer outside of the boat shop. I figured they couldn't fix them so they just lit them!

Rhodes - 07/28/11 - 14:23

I see it all the time on ESPN, when it runs out of fuel they spray it right here!!!

Rob Mitchell - 07/28/11 - 16:35

It's cold out today!!! Had to start a fire to keep warm.

gen3fire - 07/28/11 - 17:15

Nick, I was sitting here trying to remember something. I forgot all about the jet ski's. I remember the guy just left them burning and came to the firehouse to tell us about it.

Twitter as Police Scanner in Seattle

07/29/11 111 W - + 8 - 8

For your morning musings on social media, [here's a New York Times story](#) about a 12-hour experiment Tuesday in Seattle. The police department posted nearly all emergency calls on Twitter, save for domestic abuse and child abuse. The Twitter messages, which are 140 characters or fewer, totaled 478. That's an average of 40 per hour. There was no prior announcement on Twitter of what was planned, so Twitter feed subscribers had a range of reactions. Not surprising, a number of them were frustrated. Lesson #1: Let people know ahead of time, when you're preparing to drastically change the parameters of a social media channel. [Read the story for more.](#)

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.

Latched Latch | Expo Photos

07/29/11 145 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

Photos have been posted of last week's [Firehouse Expo at the Baltimore Convention Center](#). There are a few dozen shots from around the exhibit floor. Plus some pictures of the fire bloggers booth (Geezer, Statter, etc.), a meet-up on the Inner Harbor one night, a social media panel workshop, and participants prior to the 9/11 memorial stair climb. The photos have [been posted to Flickr](#), versus Legeros.com. Don't be alarmed.

Among the apparatus on display were two Ferrara rigs from New York City. Both were equipped with these unique double latches. As the story was told to me, the second latch will help keep a rig in service, since a broken compartment latch requires that a rig is immediately removed from service. Perhaps more in the know can further or better explain. Pretty interesting.



When I talked to one of the Ferrara reps at the show, he told me it was like a safety feature. Since FDNY is tough with their driving as far as pushing cars, running up on side walks and hitting pot holes it will keep the doors from coming open as they have in the past and keep the tools in the compartments since FDNY does not mount any of their tools

TJ Howard - 07/29/11 - 08:07

Thanks TJ. That was my original thought.

Legeros - 07/29/11 - 08:08

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Asheville Updates

07/29/11 301 W, 1 I - + 7 - 9

This morning's Asheville Citizen-Times provides some additional details about yesterday's four-alarm fire that killed Capt. Jeff Bowen, critically injured Jay Bettencourt, and injured nine other firefighters. The article clarifies details reported yesterday in [our original blog posting](#). Eleven firefighters total were injured, including Bowen, who died after being transported to nearby Mission Hospital. He and Bettencourt were conducting a search. Bowen called a "mayday" over the radio, the distress message that sent additional firefighters into the building, to find him.

Bettencourt was transported to Joseph M. Still Burn Center at Doctors Hospital in Augusta, GA. His condition was listed as critical Thursday night. Nine others were also transported. Three were treated as released. The remaining six were still in the hospital late yesterday. The fire started on the fifth floor of the five-story medical office building at 445 Biltmore Avenue. With the exception of one room, the building was not equipped with sprinklers.

Read this morning's [Citizen-Times story](#). There's also a [slideshow of 29 images](#). There's also a second article [about firefighter risks and duty deaths](#).

Among the tributes to Capt. Bowen is this Facebook page, [Capt. Jeff Bown In Loving Memory](#). FireNews has also posted a [transcript of the radio traffic](#), from the time of dispatch to the fourth alarm.

It was dispatched as a fire alarm activation at 12:29 p.m. The first unit, Engine 2, arrived two minutes later, with heavy smoke and flames showing from the top floor, rear of the building. Working fire dispatch (FM10, C3, R3, B1, E6) and second alarm dispatch (?) started at that time. The third alarm (E8, E10, Q5, B2) was dispatched at 12:56 p.m. The fourth alarm (L10, E4) was dispatched at 1:43 p.m., about 13 minutes after the mayday was issued.

[See other postings.](#)



This morning's Asheville Citizen-Times has a story about the amount of time taken to get water onto the fire. The headline is a bit provocative, and some might object to their analysis and inferences so soon. <http://www.citizen-times.com/article/201..>

Legeros - 07/30/11 - 09:23

I believe I will post notable news links related to the fire as comments on this thread. For notable news links related to the funeral service, I will post as comments to the arrangements thread. That should keep the two lines of thought separate.

Legeros - 07/30/11 - 09:24

It definitely took quite a bit of time to get water on the fire and Capt Bowen's line never got water if you listen to the recording. I will be

interested to hear what the cause of this is when the NIOSH report comes out. It sounded like the standpipe system had issues and not the eng's that were hooked up

Mike - 07/30/11 - 09:49

Danger, Will Robinson! No sure if we'll be able to talk about water supply, or other tactical issues. Some readers may take offense. I have witnessed conflicting opinions on propriety on other forums, in other discussions with other duty deaths. Some/many feel that a period of respectful silence should be observed. Others opine that lesson-learning should start ASAP. Not sure how we'll find ourselves, on this blog. Heck, even talking about the talking might seem disrespectful! It's a sliding-scale of sensitivities, I suppose. They remain in our thoughts, of course. That isn't changing.

Legeros - 07/30/11 - 10:00

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.

Heavy Smoke at McKimmon Center

07/29/11 131 W, 1 I - + 11 - 5

Here's a photo and a pair of video links ([before and arrival](#) and [pulling lines and initial entry](#)) from Tuesday morning's fire at North Carolina State University's McKimmon Center on Gorman Street. Dispatched around 8:00 a.m. Engine 8 arrived with heavy smoke and a quickly controlled fire in a maintenance room in the rear of the building. Smoke removal took considerably longer, and two additional ladder companies were utilized. Recalling the radio traffic, the fire units included E8, E5, E20, E1, L7, L4, L1, R3, B3, A1, C10, C20. Credit photo and video to R. Craven, by way of reader and photographer Chad Simon. He works at the place, but was off that day. [See prior posting about the fire](#). Click to enlarge:

*R. Craven photo*

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Arrangements For Asheville Capt. Jeff Bowen, Updated

08/01/11 244 W, 1 I - + 10 - 6

Monday morning update:

The Asheville Fire Department invites all departments to be part of the funeral procession. Apparatus should arrive at Biltmore Baptist Church, [35 Clayton Road](#), Arden, by 10:30 a.m., on Tuesday, August 2. Upon arrival, they will be directed to a parking area. At the end of the procession, AFD apparatus will enter the parking lot of the funeral home for a private AFD family ceremony. Non-AFD apparatus will continue west on Patton Avenue and are released at this point. Please confirm attendance via e-mail. See this [Firefighter Close Calls notice for contact information](#).

Memorial services for Asheville Fire Department Capt. Jeff Bowen, who died yesterday, have been announced. Visitation is Monday, August 1, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Biltmore Baptist Church, [35 Clayton Road](#), Arden. Memorial service is Tuesday, August 2, at 11:00 a.m. at the same location. Arden is located approximately six miles south of Asheville. Fire service participation information is pending. Stay tuned to [FireNews.net](#) or [ashevillenc.gov](#).

Additional updates from this [Asheville press release](#): Firefighter Jay Bettencourt, injured yesterday and transported a burn center in Augusta, GA, is the process of being discharged and returning to Asheville. He is reportedly feeling well. Two firefighters remain hospitalized at Mission Hospital. Both are in stable condition and are awaiting discharge. The investigation continues as to the cause of the fire.

[See other postings.](#)



City of Asheville image

Here's a WXII story with footage of the procession that left Winston-Salem this afternoon, returning Capt. Bowen's body to Asheville.

<http://www.wxii12.com/r/28708862/detail..>

Legeros - 07/29/11 - 20:11

Honor Guards wishing to participate in services for Captain Bowen should contact Skyland Fire Rescue Battalion Chief Rick Wood at rwood@skylandfire.com or via cell at 828-230-7114.

Legeros - 07/30/11 - 18:28

Does anyone know if they are going to have an apparatus procession? I've emailed Chief Wood, but haven't heard back as of yet (I know he has a lot going on right now). We are trying to make arrangements for our personnel to attend and lining up transportation, be it engine company or van.

Trying to Attend - 08/01/11 - 00:13

Here is some info: <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/new..>

Legeros - 08/01/11 - 05:49

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.

Three-Dimensional Printing

07/29/11 26 W - + 7 - 5

The future is upon us. Think of the possibilities as costs drop and complexity simplifies over time. Found on a die-cast collectors board.

Mike, it is cool technology and they have come a long way in the last few years. I keep waiting for the price to drop so I can get my company to buy one. You should see one in person if you get the chance.

Griggs - 07/30/11 - 19:02

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.

Raleigh Police, Firefighters Go Pink in Softball Fundraiser on Sunday

07/30/11 107 W, 1 I - + 6 - 4

[Read this News & Observer article](#) about the Pink Diamond Classic softball game Sunday, where Raleigh police and firefighters will play against the King and His Court, a renowned four-man exhibition team in one of their final games. The event starts at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 31, at the The Curtis Jacqueline Dail Softball Stadium, [2481 Cates Avenue](#), Raleigh, on the North Carolina State University campus Admission and parking are free. The event is a fundraiser to benefit the [Kay Yow Cancer Fund](#). Thanks to Mrs. Blogger for finding this one.



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'?

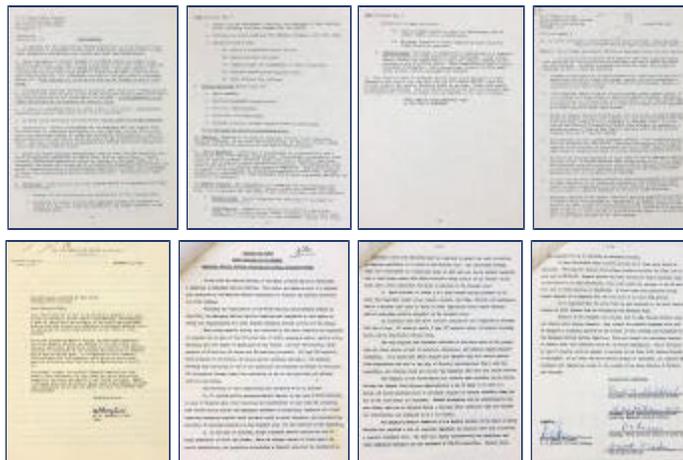
[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

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

North Carolina Civil Defense Documents, 1950

07/30/11 77 W, 8 I - + 9 - 6

Historian Frank Blazich, who operates the fascinating North Carolina Civil Defense History blog, recently found a set of interesting documents. They were authored by Eldred Zed Jones, the first civil defense director in the state's post-World War II civil defense organization. The documents detail planning needs fire and emergency medical services, as well as the use of sirens on emergency vehicles. Great stuff! Thanks, Frank. Click **once or twice** to enlarge:



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.

Caption This Photo / Here Comes Water

07/30/11 43 W, 1 I - + 7 - 7

That's a member of Cary Engine 2 working on a vehicle fire with Western Wake yesterday afternoon off Trinity Road. What do you think happened next, after this photo was taken?



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

Historical Database of Fallen Firefighters in North Carolina

07/30/11 277 W - + 10 - 4

Earlier this year, I had occasion to update my [historical database of fallen firefighters in North Carolina](#). Same was created about five years ago, as the North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Foundation was preparing for their first annual memorial ceremony. The information in the database, however, is **not** an official representation of NCCFF information. Nor should it be considered an official representation of OSFM, USFA, or NFFF information.

[There's an accompanying essay](#), written and published on FireNews.net in 2006. The database includes names, ages, ranks, death dates, department information, volunteer/career status, a short description of the incident, and select notes, including race and gender (if known) and burial information. Yours Truly has more information in his files, and may someday compile some historical statistics. Such as tallying the causes of deaths, the frequencies over periods of time, and such.

Sources for the information? That's been a bugger, over the years. Death certificates were located where possible, via microfilm at our local history library. Plus *News & Observer* or *Raleigh Times* articles on microfilm, which often mentioned firefighter fatalities statewide. Heck, even old *Hose & Nozzle* issues provided information, which were found during research at UNC over one winter break.

For more recent duty deaths, the online database of the USFA and NFFF have been useful. Some genealogical resources were used, where names were incomplete. Then further research and cross-referencing could continue. The sources are listed at the bottom of the database. As always, I welcome corrections and clarifications to the data. The objective is an accurate but still respectful representation of the fallen fire service members. [View the database](#).

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.

Goodbye Wilmington Station 2

07/30/11 41 W, 1 I - + 9 - 6

Reader Matt White shares this WECT story about the demolition of Wilmington's Empie Park fire station. He sent some shots both inside and outside the old station, which we posted a couple weeks ago.



Veronica Macias 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'?

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

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Tees For Vinny

07/30/11 86 W - + 8 - 4

From a reader, a young man with down syndrome in Altoona, PA, has been diagnosed with leukemia. He is very sick, and his friends are asking for t-shirts to help cheer him up. The boy's name is Vinny and he absolutely loves t-shirts. Maybe there are some fire department or emergency services shirts that could be sent, from our little corner of the world in Wake County. [Here's a facebook page](#) about the project, and it includes his mailing address. Thanks for reading.

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.

Hot Day in Havelock

07/30/11 66 W, 1 I - + 5 - 5

Two townhomes were destroyed this afternoon down east, as this [Havelock News story reports](#). The fire was reported shortly after noon at 122 Heather Glenn Circle. Havelock's new ladder truck was utilized. Havelock, Township Six, Township Seven, and Harlowe fire departments are scene. The Weather Channel says its 93 degrees there, with a heat index of 103 degrees.



Drew C. Wilson/Havelock News photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

Hot Day in Cary, Updated

07/30/11 322 W, 2 I - + 10 - 4

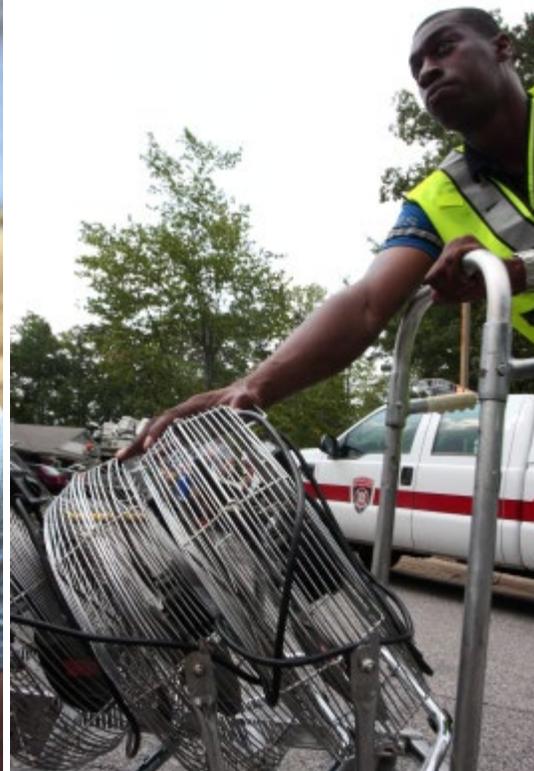
Fifteen paramedic ambulances were among the many resources that responded to a two-alarm structure fire and subsequent mass casualty incident at a Cary nursing home this afternoon. Dispatched at 3:27 p.m. with additional caller reporting fire in a room. Second alarm dispatched prior to arrival. Engine 3 arrived at [6590 Tryon Road](#) with nothing showing from the exterior of the one-story, brick-and-frame residential medical facility with 48,842 square-feet. Built in 1991.

Engine 3 personnel found in a patient's room, and contained to that room and quickly controlled. Building fire department connection supplied, and sprinkler system also activated. Crews also assisted with evacuation and outdoor care of the 105 patients inside the facility. They were outside the building for about 20 minutes, staged in three or more parking lot and lawn locations. Shuttle buses requested, for possible relocation. Patients returned to building, with officials evaluating if later relocation would be needed.

Second alarm EMS dispatched. Additional units were required for treatment and transport of six victims with minor injuries (smoke, heat), three patients and three workers. Additional resources were required for medical monitoring and rehab of responders, and subsequent rehab of the rehab personnel. Air temperature in the mid 90s. Command including medical branch located in front of structure. Staging in driveway and nearby parking lot. Additional medical staging in office complex at corner of Tryon Road and Kildaire Parkway. Shuttle buses moved to nearby church parking lot.

Units on scene included Cary E3, E6, E4, E2, L3, L6, L1, R2, B1, B2; Swift Creek E3, B27; Cary/Apex/Wake County EMS 51, EMS 42, EMS 41, EMS 8, EMS 52, EMS 4, EMS 32, EMS 38, EMS 35, EMS 17, EMS 9, EMS 5, EMS 35, EMS 55, EMS 31, D5, D2, D1, M94, T1, Evac1, Chief 100. Plus Wake County Fire Services, Wake County EM, and Cary Police. Both Legeros and Lee were on scene.

[See photos by Mike Legeros](#) | [See photos by Lee Wilson](#)



Description updated, with links to Lee's photos added. Full series of Legeros photos uploading now.

Legeros - 07/31/11 - 10:09

Busy day in Cary. I know Merville went on two working fires with Cary.

Spanky - 07/31/11 - 12:57

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.

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.

Stories, Reports From Asheville

07/31/11 273 W - + 10 - 10

Here's a summary of stories, reports, and information about the Asheville four-alarm last week that killed Capt. Jeff Bowen and critically injured firefighter Jay Bettencourt. The memorial service is Tuesday at Biltmore Baptist Church in Ayden. The visitation is the night before at the same location. Below is a selection of links, including numerous Asheville Citizen-Times stories that have been published.

Asheville Citizen-Times

- [ATF team begins fire investigation](#) (Jul 30)
- [Many Asheville buildings don't have sprinklers](#) (Jul 30)
- [Jeffrey Scott Bowen obituary](#) (Jul 30)
- [City workers remember fallen Asheville firefighter](#) (Jul 30)
- [Firefighter feels Asheville brother's death from 900 miles away](#) (Jul 30)
- [Moment of silence for fallen firefighter photo gallery](#) (Jul 29)
- [City workers gather to honor fallen Asheville firefighter](#) (Jul 29)
- [Facebook page honors fallen Asheville firefighter](#) (Jul 29)
- [Water pipes hampered crew in fatal Asheville blaze](#) (Jul 29)
- [Bowen, firefighters did not shirk from their duty](#) (Jul 29)
- [Three Asheville firefighter deaths in 87 years](#) (Jul 28)
- [Firefighter killed in Asheville blaze](#) (Jul 28)
- [Biltmore office fire photo gallery](#) (Jul 28)

Legeros Fire Blog

- [Arrangements For Asheville Capt. Jeff Bowen](#)
- [Asheville Updates](#)
- [Asheville Firefighter Killed, Another Critically Injured](#)

Other Sites

- [Message from Asheville FD](#), reference memorial service, honor guards, and hotel information (Firefighter Close Calls)
- [Local firefighters stand to honor fallen comrade](#) (WXII)
- [N.C. firefighter killed nattling four-alamer](#) (Firehouse.com)
- Firefighter Close Calls coverage: [Firefighter reported down](#) | [Asheville Firefighter dies in the line of duty](#) | [Update: Asheville](#)
- FireNews.net coverage: [Arrangements for Capt. Bowen](#)
- Statter911 coverage: [Funeral arrangements](#) | [Update Asheville, North Carolina Fire Captain Jeffrey Bowel dead...](#)
- [Facebook tribute page to Capt. Bowen](#)

Other Information

- [Edited radio traffic](#), via YouTube
- [Transcription of some of the radio traffic](#), via FireNews

Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

Reader Mail

07/31/11 868 W - + 6 - 9

Been a while since we looked through our letters. Let's open the mail bag and see what the gas bag has to say. Most of these queries or comments have been edited for clarity, or rewritten to conceal the identity of the sender. Just being polite on the last point, since no permission has been asked to reprint their notes. Mail me, if you don't want your letter reprinted.

I came across your [Cary Fire Department timeline](#) and noticed that there was a mention of Ashworth Drugs under 1935... "Fire station is ordered moved to new location, in back of the Masonic Lodge at corner Chatham and Academy streets. Lodge building later becomes Ashworth's Drugstore in 1977(August 24, 1935) cb". I'm not sure if Chief Beck misspoke or not, but the drugstore actually became Ashworth's in 1957. Just prior to that it was Adams' Pharmacy.

Thanks for the correction. I will update that page at my next opportunity. That timeline, and others for other Wake County fire departments, was created in the early 2000s, as I was conducting historical research used in my Raleigh and Wake County Firefighting books. Alas, my priorities and attentions have since shifted, and those web-based timelines have been without updates for a while. Group editing and input would be great. Maybe I'll convert them to Wiki pages, someday. Let the collective take ownership and revise as desired.

--

In your posting about demolished stations, you stated that the original New Hope Station 1 was demolished before the current station was built. Are you sure about this? I remember when I used to hang around that place in the late 1980s, and when the current meeting room (the two windows to the left of the entrance) used to be bay space. If I am not mistaken, the current meeting room and day room space, and the two bays on the far end of the station, are additions. Any way you can confirm this?

Here's what I have recorded about the first New Hope fire stations: In 1956, the first fire station is "L" shaped building at corner of Louisburg and New Hope roads, with loaned / rented garage bay on the New Hope Road side. The first fire truck is stored there. In 1958 or abouts, a new fire station is constructed at 4615 New Hope Road. Same is a three-bay building with a blackboard (for writing down calls) and an entrance to the right of bays.

--

I was hoping you could answer a few questions for me, being you are the historian you are!

What was the first fire department in North Carolina and the date?

What was the first fully staffed fire department in North Carolina and the date?

What was the first department to have paid staff in North Carolina and the date?

Any of the state's first volunteer fire companies can be cited as "first fire departments." New Bern in 1773, though that was the year they were authorized to create one. Unsure if it was actually formed that year. Salem in 1785. Fayetteville in 1791, which was the year chartered. Does that mean that an un-chartered fire company existed before then? Possibly.

For historical context, we should equate fully staffed = career department formed. Charlotte was 1887, then Wilmington a year later.

Now, for paid staff, that's a toughie. Back in the day, the volunteer companies of the 19th Century had paid drivers and engineers on duty. But you might mean paid part-time staff in the more modern context. No idea on that one.

--

In any of your millions of factoids, do you have information regarding (1.) the price Raleigh paid for a Mack CF pumper and (2.) the price paid for a Pierce Enforcer/Dash, or whatever they are currently using?

#1 - 1982 - \$108,000. 1975 - \$48,924. The first and last purchases were in 1970 and 1982, respectively.

#2 - 2010 - I don't have those numbers, but think it's between \$400 and \$500K. Probably closer to \$400K.

--

I am interested in hearing about how you published your two books about Raleigh and Wake County Firefighting with Arcadia Publishing, in their Images of America series. This is something that I am very interested in doing with our department, and I was wondering what you experienced when you were doing it.

Had a great experience and have much to tell. Anyone interested in hearing can just drop me a private message.

--

Here's a good thing to post on the blog, maybe generate some discussion and open some minds. It's Bill Gustin's [Critical Components of Size-up](#).

Thanks. That's good stuff.

--

Here's another Tunnels to Towers Run, [this one in Wilmington](#). September 11 at Veterans Park. Passing along, if you know of anyone interested.

Thanks. Looks like four in our state, so far. Charlotte, Jacksonville, Wake Forest, Wilmington. Visit www.tunneltotowersrun.org for more information.

--

[General or specific question about buying a scanner, programming a scanner, finding pager tones, or other monitoring stuff.]

For such queries, I refer readers to the great and knowledgeable Marshall Sherard, who reads this blog and is probably reading now. He can help with all things radio.

Wow Thanks Mike :) And yes I read this site daily and I am always happy to help folks out. My contact info is right after my name. Stay safe and stay cool folks!

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/31/11 - 15:35

Addition:

Q: Do you know of any venues suitable for selling fire models and other memorabilia? How about the weekend Raleigh fairground flea market? Any suggestions appreciated.

A: I know of exactly ZERO places locally for selling such stuff. Haven't seen firematic stuff at any of the flea markets, that I can recall. Two years ago, the Chief of Western Wake and myself put our heads together, and held a firematic flea market in conjunction with an anniversary event of theirs. It was a one-day thing, for a few hours. We had minimal attendance. Some folks showed. Sold some stuff. I have mentioned the flea market idea again and again, around here. Still doesn't seem to get much traction. Maybe we need to head north!

Legeros - 07/31/11 - 19:27

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Seen on Scene

07/31/11 88 W, 2 I - + 5 - 6

Cooler temperatures and higher humidity today, with showers and what sounds like thunderstorms. Here's a house fire from a bit ago, south of downtown at the intersection of Summit and Gilbert avenues. Quickly extinguished by Engine 1. Looks like ventilation in progress from Ladder 4 in the top shot. And rehab being readied with big ol' Truck 1 on the bottom. Both Lee and Legeros met again on scene and will be posting pictures later.



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

These Guys Serve (Food) and Protect

07/31/11 106 W, 1 I - + 9 - 3

Here's a [Midtown Raleigh News article](#) about the Falls Fire Department fundraiser last week at Milton's Pizza at Wakefield. Curious headline, as it's a play on a familiar law-enforcement motto. Easy to get the two confused, perhaps. Nice article, all the same. [We blogged in advance](#) about the fundraiser, and that thread got a bit hot. Glad to hear and read that the event was a success. Public interaction outside of emergency scenes is always a good thing. [Read the story](#), which includes the below picture of Firefighter Mike Greenham serving a diner.



Carla Turchetti/Midtown Raleigh News 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'?

Winston-Salem Police Officer Dies on Duty in Crash

07/31/11 210 W, 1 I - + 12 - 6

Another North Carolina public safety duty death was reported Saturday, when Winston-Salem Police Department Officer Russell Willingham, 28, died early that morning in a single-vehicle accident on North Vargrave Street. He was responded to assist another officer with stopping a probable drunk driver. His police cruiser left the road, went down an embankment, and struck a tree.

He reported his crash and that he was pinned. His last radio transmission was that his vehicle had caught fire. When responders arrived, his cruiser was fully involved. Officer Willingham was later found dead in the vehicle. [This Winston-Salem Journal article](#) has more information, as do other media outlets. Arrangements are pending.

Officer Willingham is the fourth law officer in North Carolina to be killed in the line of duty this year. To learn more about fallen officers, visit the [Officer Down Memorial Page](#). The site includes a searchable database, with 502 (!) records dating as early as 1816. (The records for all states total 20,635, and date to 1791. Wonder what a consolidated database on the fire service side would look like, going back that far?) Next question, is there a comparable North Carolina police news site, or police blog, that people read?



I think you're off a bit. He is the 104th officer killed in the US this year. Not sure how many in NC, possibly the 4th

Mike - 07/31/11 - 23:54

Thanks Mike, I was referring to the number killed in North Carolina this year, and have corrected my text.

Legeros - 08/01/11 - 06:24

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Mystery Crash Truck

07/31/11 37 W, 1 I - + 19 - 9

This one's from somewhere outside of North Carolina. Any guessers, both for the airport and the make (beyond the obvious chassis) of the apparatus? Will reveal more in subsequent posting. Click to enlarge:



Can't make out the name on the truck, but the siren on top of the tower is a nice touch....

DJ - 08/01/11 - 08:32

You may need to click twice to fully enlarge the photo.

Legeros - 08/01/11 - 08:34

It appears to be a modified version of a p-18 from the airforce. built on internation paystar chasis and built by KME

Adam Brown - 08/01/11 - 22:00

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Vintage Crash Trucks

07/31/11 85 W - + 10 - 8

Since we're riding the wayback machine, let's reprint a blog posting from August of last year. It's summer, time to enjoy or remember your favorite dumb action movies. [Here we go again](#), repeating this classic sequence at the end of *Airport 1975*. Boeing 747 coming hot into Salt Lake City. Don't you love those old Air Force crash trucks? And the Cadillac ambulances swerving to a stop? Probably asked my parents to take me a second time, just to watch these scenes again.

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.

Morning News

08/02/11 339 W - + 7 - 2

Looking across the local news sites and fire bloggers, here's some of what caught our eye this morning. No time for individual postings on some of these, alas. Safe travels to those heading to Asheville today.

- [Raleigh Police Turn to Propane](#) - *News & Observer* story about 10 dual-fuel police cars placed in service yesterday. The project's funded as part of a \$12 million, four-year stimulus grant. The articles notes that Knightdale has also done the same thing, through the same program.
- [Forty Reels of Cooper Stolen from Wake County Justice Site](#) - Another *News & Observer* story. Metal thievery is a national problem. News stories everywhere about it. Heck, even some places have seen fire hydrants stolen. Wonder how bad it'll get here?
- [Garner House Fires Spark Neighborhood Concern](#) - WRAL story about a Saturday fire that destroyed a home and killed two dogs in the Meadows community in Johnston County. Why the Garner reference? The house has a zip code for same. Third fire in the community in six months. Residents are now concerned about the safety of their homes. Inspired awareness is always good thing.
- [What Country is This? A Look at Some Recent Incidents Where the Police Become News Editors...](#) - Statter911 story about a news videographer arrested in Suffolk County, NY. The camera's rolling during the arrest. The issue is constitutional freedom of public photography of public servants, a passionate favorite of Dave's. He links to his other stories on the subject. And a very good discussion is underway in the comments.
- [Residents Line Process Route of Fallen Asheville Firefighter](#) - *Citizen-Times* story about yesterday's procession as the body of fallen Asheville Capt. Jeff Bowen was moved from Groce Funeral Home to Biltmore Baptist Church. Thousands of people lined the streets as 15 fire engines and dozens of support vehicles passed them. There are also some videos on YouTube of the procession. Search "Asheville Procession" and you'll see clips such as [this one](#) and [this one](#). Quality varies.

Except the Garner fire wasn't in Garner. It was in Meadow or somewhere in Jonhston Co

Mike - 08/02/11 - 10:26

Its in Cleveland's Fire district, just has a garner address, just like all of 40-42

district chief - 08/02/11 - 11:35

Yes Mike, but the outcome is the same ;)

Troll - 08/02/11 - 13:17

Copper not cooper

autocorrect - 08/02/11 - 14:06

Thanks, I hope Cooper knows he's been stolen!

Legeros - 08/02/11 - 14:29

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Freeway Blocking Unit

08/02/11 170 W, 1 I - + 8 - 4

Who hasn't wondered about dedicated blocking vehicles for roadway emergency scenes? We've pondered that question here-- though I cannot find the specific postings or threads to cite--asking about the feasibility of specialized trucks for the sole purpose of absorbing impacts from colliding vehicles. Heck, that's how highway construction sites operate.

As Firefighter Close Calls reported today, Grand Rapids, MI, has done that very thing. Called Utility 2, it's a surplus city dump truck turned safety vehicle. New paint, new lights, new reflectors. Plus trailer-drawn shock-absorbing apparatus (called a [crash attenuator](#)). The conversion is the response to a trio of accidents that cost over \$150,000 in apparatus repairs, while the bigger rigs were blocking traffic on a downtown freeway. (That's U.S. 131 and a segment [called the S-curve](#), for a pair of sharp turns. Don't know if the new truck will respond city-wide, or just to that roadway segment.)

[Read the Firefighter Close Calls story](#), or watch this [WOOD-TV video segment](#).



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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Morning News - August 3, 2011

08/03/11 605 W - + 6 - 3

Second day for summary format, which we're totally digging. What a time saver, compiling as single versus multiple posts! Here's some of what we're reading and browsing and thinking about this morning...

- [Asheville Firefighter Bowen Laid to Rest](#) - Citizen-Times reporting on yesterday's funeral for Asheville Fire Department Captain Jeff Bowen, who died in the line of duty last week at a four-alarm commercial structure fire. The service at Biltmore Baptist Church in Arden was attended by over 2,500 people. Firefighters came from across North Carolina to attend. Others came from out of state. The story includes a [slideshow of 42 images](#) from the funeral procession. Awaiting video of the funeral process. A number of clips of the prior day's procession have already surfaced on YouTube.
- Personnel and companies from across the state provided coverage for the Asheville crews. That included Skyland Rescue 2, Salisbury Engine 2, and Charlotte Engine 32 and Tanker 40 (also an engine), with five people each on the Charlotte companies, for 48 hours. Departments covering included Fairview, Waynesville, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem. Readers can perhaps expand. Asheville police were posted at each fire station also, to provide escorts and help with directions to calls.
- [House Catches Fire After Grill Ignites Propane Tanks](#) - WTVD story about yesterday evening's house fire on Wagram Court. That was the thick column of smoke east of north Falls of Neuse Road. Was dispatched as a haz-mat call, when the caller reported that their grill had caught fire. The LP tanks exploded, the deck caught fire, and spread to the house. [See some early photos from Legeros.](#)
- [Durham 911 Takes Text Messages](#) - WRAL story. Beginning today, residents can send cell phone text messages to report emergencies. This is a trial program, and limited to Verizon Wireless customers. The text messages are limited to 160 characters. Plans include expansion to other phone carriers, and adding image and video services. Durham is the first city in North Carolina to provide such service.
- [Cary Officer Released From Hospital](#) - Cary News story about the recovery of Officer Chad Penland, who was injured on duty in a [motorcycle crash on July 16](#), The eight-year Cary Police Department veteran suffered serious injuries including broken bones.
- [Must See Video: It Ain't All Bad Out There Statter...](#) - Postscript to the latest posting on Statter911 about responders reacting to cameras at emergency scenes. Officer confronts person openly carrying weapon. Camera is rolling. Everyone is calm and polite. But reading the comments posted to the YouTube video, and you'll see a range of different reactions. Ergo the humor in response to the posting.
- [Mount Up or Shut Up](#) - Backstep Firefighter blog post mentioned by Statter a couple days ago. Meant to mention yesterday. Short posting with opinions on opinions, and in the context of quarterbacking after the Asheville incident. Key quote, that applies across the board with blogs: "If you feel so strongly about your opinion that you need to publicly state it before the first shovel tosses dirt in the grave, then get a pair and show your name and department wherever you comment. Even if others disagree with you, they will have some respect for you."
- [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#) - Counting down to the big event at the Raleigh Convention Center next week. Need to start separate blog posts about that. First Annual Brotherhood Bash on Friday night. North Carolina Firefighting History Talk on Friday afternoon. Apparatus parade on Saturday. Raleigh Fire Department Museum open on Saturday, with free shuttle service. Other stuff. More other stuff. Still more other stuff. More later.

Units covering Asheville Station 1 were:

Woodfin E20 (Engine 1)
Charlotte T40 (also running as E1, them and Woodfin alternated picking up calls)
Mills River E18-2 (Squad 1)
Black Mtn Squad 4 (TAC 1)
Weaverville L8 (Ladder 1)

Asheville Station 3 (Captain Bowen's station)
Salisbury R1 (running as Engine 3 which no longer exists, station 3 is a single piece house now)
Skyland R21 (Rescue 3)

Asheville Station 5
Hickory E5 (Engine 5)
Skyland E21-3 (Engine 52)

Asheville Station 11
Charlotte E32 (Engine 11)
Enka E102 (Engine 11 as well)

These are the only stations I know about for sure as far as fill in companies.

BFD1151 - 08/03/11 - 14:22

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.

First Annual Brotherhood Bash, Friday, August 12 (Updated Flier)

08/04/11 72 W, 1 I - + 9 - 4

From the Capital Area FOOLS comes this flier about a firefighter bash during the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#) next week. The date is Friday, August 12. The location is Napper Tandy's Irish Pub, 126 N. West Street, Raleigh. The time is 8:00 p.m. until. Live music, food and drinks, and more. [Here's a prior post about same.](#) Click to view this PDF format flier:



We will be holding several raffles that evening also. 1st prize is a LEATHER Lid, 2nd Leather fire boots, and 3rd custom cornhole boards. There will also be several other prizes and give aways through out the night. Food and drink specials and 10% off your bill with a BROTHERHOOD BASH Flier. All proceeds will be donated to the NC Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Several local pipe bands will also be on site for a Pipe and Drum jam session you will not want to miss! If you have any questions please feel free to contact me anytime. Hope to see YOU there and as always....STAY SAFE.... FTM-PTB-EGH-DTRT-RFB

Craig McDowell ([Email](#)) - 08/03/11 - 20:28

Updated with updated flier.

Legeros - 08/04/11 - 18:46

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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Charlotte Fire Department Steamer Demonstration in Downtown Raleigh, Saturday, August 13 08/03/11 138 W, 1 I - + 8 - 2

From the Charlotte Fire Departments comes this invitation to watch a live demonstration of their 1902 American LaFrance third-size steamer "Old Sue" on Saturday, August 13. They'll be pumping on Cabarrus Street between Gale and McDowell Streets. That'll be after the 9:00 a.m. apparatus parade, in which they'll appear and drawn by horses. Both events are part of the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#).

Charlotte's steamer is one of a handful that have survived in our state. The 1902 steamer was the last of four that served, at least as my records show. It was restored by members of the department in 1999. Learn more about the [history of steam fire engines in North Carolina](#), as well as [fire horse histories](#). Or click to view this PDF format flier:



You are invited to re-visit an important part of **Charlotte Fire Department** and fire service history as we pump "Old Sue"

Join us during the

South Atlantic **FIRE RESCUE Expo**
Saturday, August 13, 2011
11:30 a.m. on Cabarrus St.
between Gale & McDowell Streets



HISTORY

Manufactured by the American Fire Engine Company, the steamer known as "Old Sue" was purchased by the City of Charlotte in 1902. It is symbolic of a glamorous era in fire service history. A two horse hitch was used with Pencheson draft horses. Three horses were assigned to this steamer, two dapple gray, Fred and Tony, and one black, High Ball.

Housed in the 100 block of North Church Street in the rear of the Sebeyn Hotel, the steamer rendered invaluable service at Charlotte's larger spectacular fires of that era.

In 1916, the horses were taken out of service and the steamer was towed to lines behind a motor driven Knox chemical fire engine. The Department traded the steamer in on a new fire apparatus. Mr. P.O. Heibert the southern representative of the American La-France Fire Engine Company, presented the steamer to the officers and members of the Charlotte Fire Department.

To watch the "Good News" story that WBTV reporter Kristie Hampton did on "Old Sue" click on the following link.
<http://www.wbvtv.com/georal/story.aspx?ID=703>

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Brush Fire Burns 31 Acres in Durham

08/03/11 113 W, 2 I - + 7 - 5

Durham city and county and Orange firefighters had their hands full this afternoon with a major brush fire on Cole Mill Road near Berini Drive and Interstate 85. Though a plow and back fires were deployed to help control the blaze, a change in wind direction caused the fire to jump the break. Flames came as close as 40 feet to residential structures on Bentgrass Lane, [reports this WRAL story](#). Durham, Lebanon, Eno, and New Hope fire departments on scene, plus Forest Service. Perhaps readers will post incident details. See also this [News & Observer](#) story with a couple photos.



WRAL photo



Harry Lynch/News & Observer photo

Very close to the workplace. Monitored the operations on Durham's 800Mhz system. Very interesting and glad no one was hurt.

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 08/04/11 - 16:34

Rebuilt Brick by Brick

08/04/11 213 W, 1 I - + 7 - 2

Heard this story before? Engine House No. 5 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Built in 1880 at 1181 Monroe Avenue NW. Replaced by a modern, one-story fire station around 1980. Then torn down in 1981, brick-by-brick, and reconstructed as a fire museum in 1984, in the town of Allendale, west of Grand Rapids. How wild is that? Here's the [museum's web site](#). Here's a history site about [Grand Rapids engine houses](#). What other fire stations have you heard of, that were rebuilt or reconstructed at second locations?



Now, why is the Grand Rapids Fire Department on this blogger's mind? Things started with our posting about new [freeway blocking unit](#). That led to an idle visit to the department's web site, and checking out their stations. That led to the realization that (a.) wow, they have some really old buildings and (b.) hey, my trip next month to Iowa > Illinois > Michigan puts me in close proximity to said city.

Research has started, and some dozen former or historic fire station buildings have been found in town. That, my friends, is the bonus of loving fire history. No matter where you travel, there's always some sort of history to be found. And sometimes even old buildings to photograph.

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.

Tuesday's Fire on Wagram Court

08/04/11 226 W, 1 I - + 10 - 2

Still working on the full series of pictures from Tuesday's house fire. [See the preliminary pics](#) by Legeros. Here's the incident description: Working fire at [1301 Wagram Court](#). Engine 4 arriving at a two-story, brick-and-frame, single-family dwelling with 2,141 square-feet. Rear deck fully involved, with fire extending up the side of the structure and into the attic space. Lines pulled and crews attacked both inside into attic space (one line), and outside to extinguish deck and exterior (two lines). Ladder 5 deployed to assist with overhaul. Dispatched 8:17 p.m., as haz-mat incident involving LP tank on fire.

Callers subsequently reported LP tank gas explosion with deck and structure on fire. Structure fire assignment dispatched and added to response. Haz-Mat 2 and Engine 15 reported column smoke while en route. Working fire assignment dispatched prior to first engine arrival. Controlled 8:52 p.m. Cause determined as accidental, due to malfunctioning LP gas grill. No civilian injuries. One firefighter injured with dislocated shoulder, sustained prior to entering structure.

Units on scene included: E4, E15 (taken with HM2), L5, L7, R1, B1, B2, HM1 (with E2 crew), HM2 (with E15 crew), SR 2 (with E8 crew). Structure fire: E22, E19, E_ (was there a third engine?), L1, R3. Working fire: E9, A1, C10, C20, C40. Other fire: B2. Medical: EMS __, EMS __, EMS 5, EMS 1, T1, D1.



I sent the structure fire assignment once I realized what was going on. I left engine 4 as the first due for the fire and only added two more engines and a ladder for the structure fire response.

Marcus - 08/04/11 - 19:03

You did a great job at ECC Marcus! Thanks for your help dude!!

A.C. Rich - 08/04/11 - 19:21

<http://i.imgur.com/GycKc.jpg>

Jake - 08/05/11 - 03:26

Love you too Jake

Marcus - 08/05/11 - 15:22

Loading Hose

08/04/11 50 W, 1 I - + 3 - 4

And another shot from Tuesday evening, aftermath of a kitchen fire on Hidden Pond Drive. Quickly extinguished, though a lot of smoke to eject. Those pictures are coming also. Busy week here at Blog Central. Getting ready for the Fire Expo.



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.

Wake County Firefighter's Association Non-Meeting and Social, Tuesday, August 9

08/04/11 124 W, 1 I - + 5 - 5

In lieu of the quarterly dinner and meeting on Tuesday, August 9 at 7:00 p.m., the [Wake County Firefighter Association](#) will instead hold a social at Napper Tandy's Irish Pub at 126 N. West Street. The social will help kick-off the opening of the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#). Plan to attend, and at least get yourself oriented for the [First Annual Brotherhood Bash](#), which the Association and the Capital Area FOOLS are hosting at the same pub, three days later. Plan for good spirits with good spirits on both days! Better get myself some swag printed. It's about time for Yours Truly to start sporting head gear saying Blog 100.



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.

Mystery Ambulance

08/05/11 51 W, 1 I - + 6 - 4

Where is it, and what is it? Let's see, what clues could we give? It's somewhere within the driving range of the blogger, who took the picture in the last 24 hours. Of course, some of you have probably already seen the thing.



In county equipment storage yard, off Chapel Hill Rd ...

Tim B - 08/05/11 - 07:59

Although have no clue of its history ...

Tim B - 08/05/11 - 08:00

Up for auction at the state surplus warehouse, bad motor or transmission if memory serves. Interesting livery, any ideas where it came from?

PJ - 08/05/11 - 08:47

I believe that would be an ex-Surry County EMS ambulance. From a while ago when they were running the big trucks. (The green stripes used to be orange.)

Joffre - 08/05/11 - 19:00

Ok, I don't know what the emoticon was about, but it doesn't like "ex-". It should read, "former Surry County EMS..."

Joffre - 08/05/11 - 19:01

Joffre's right...that's an old Surry EMS rig...

Jeff - 08/07/11 - 18:26

@JOffre – it's b/c you put the combination of "x", "-" and "S" together which is where the emoticon originated.

Duda ([Email](#)) - 08/08/11 - 09:19

Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

This Morning's Apartment Fire / Kent Road

08/05/11 44 W, 1 I - + 5 - 5

[Draft pictures by Legeros posted.](#) Details and more photos forthcoming. Engine 8 first on scene. Dispatched about ~~5:28~~ 5:00 a.m. Maximum ISO photography for this one. Morning news reports appearing on local stations.



Mike,

I saw that in the description on the photo gallery that you put "platoon" rather than shift. Did RFD change the phrasing and if so why?

Watson - 08/05/11 - 15:13

Yes, Dr. Watson. Some weeks ago, the fire department formally changed the language used to describe each shift. They are now called platoons.

Legeros - 08/05/11 - 19:39

Full series of photos posted, <http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/2011-0..>

Legeros - 08/05/11 - 19:56

Thanks Mike.

Watson - 08/05/11 - 22:10

Arrest made: http://www.wral.com/news/news_briefs/sto..

Legeros - 08/10/11 - 07:45

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

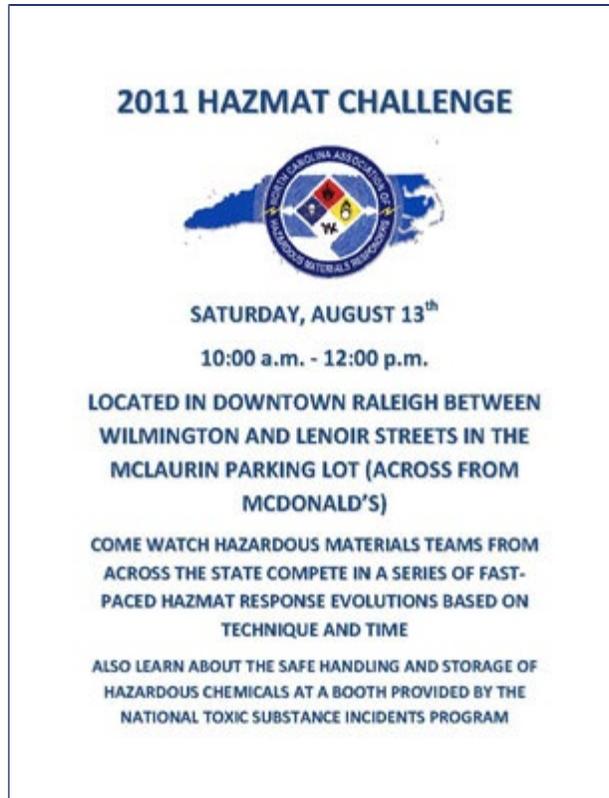
Yes

No

Haz-Mat Challenge at Fire Expo, Saturday, August 13

08/05/11 94 W, 1 I - + 6 - 2

This year's annual Haz-Mat Challenge will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 13. Part of the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#), the location will be the McLaurin parking lot between Wilmington and Lenoir streets. That's across the street from the golden arches. The event offers teams the opportunity to test their haz-mat response techniques in friendly competition, as well as network with other haz-mat responders. Watch for updated evolutions this year, to further enhance this entertaining and educational event. Click to read this PDF-format flier:



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Charlotte Swift Water Rescue Team in Action

08/05/11 98 W, 1 I - + 8 - 2

The *News & Observer* has posted this *Charlotte Observer* photo of Charlotte Fire Department swift water rescue team member Jason Dickson. He's shown assisting with the evacuation of residents from apartments on Southwest Boulevard this afternoon, after heavy rains caused flooding low-lying areas. Unknown if any of the residents were on the lam, and thus lying low in the low-lying parts. (Sorry, soggy humor there.) [Read the story](#), which includes a couple-dozen other photos. Next question, wonder how many such teams are in service statewide?



Todd Sumlin/Charlotte Observer photo

Check gastongazette.com for good video and article on flooding today.

rocket33 - 08/05/11 - 21:53

Charlotte has alot of low lying areas in the city this is not uncommon during severe storms in Charlotte. Both Stations 10,3 handle water rescues with other support w/ operations

Varsity - 08/05/11 - 22:06

Hey Mike, have you ever received or inquired about contracting a fire photographer from the Charlotte area to post to your site? Just thinking it would be a good mix of Raleigh stuff to add some Queen City photos as well.

Man with the Yellow Hat - 08/06/11 - 17:18

Thanks for your note. That does leave me a bit curious, George. The content on legeros.com/firepics is an exclusive combination of my photos and Lee's photos. Though I have had similar queries in the past, I haven't done much thinking on same. The site has always been (in my mind) "the place to go, to see what's happened around Raleigh." You make an interesting proposition. What if one (or even more) key photographers were added, to expand the site into something like "see what's happened around Raleigh and other places." Let me think about that one.

Legeros - 08/06/11 - 17:23

Mike,

If you do expand the site you should get in contact with Julian, he catches some great photographs from the Bull City.

Watson - 08/06/11 - 21:25

Mike ...keep it the way it is, your site for Raleigh and WC only...if other cities want to do this then let them create there own site and your site can link to theirs and vice versa!

keepitlocal - 08/10/11 - 13:56

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.

Videos of Funeral Procession For Asheville Fire Capt. Jeff Bowen

08/06/11 312 W, 1 I - + 6 - 8

Here are a pair of videos showing the funeral procession of Asheville Fire Department Capt. Jeffrey Scott Bowen, killed last week at a four-alarm fire at commercial medical office building. The July 28 also critically injured firefighter Jay Bettencourt. The cause of the fire has been since determined as arson. The videos were posted by the YouTube user asheville103. The two videos have a total running time of about 25 minutes. The location of the video is not indicated, but a pair of ladder trucks are poised at the intersection. Capt. Bowen was buried at Biltmore Baptist Church, in Ayden. (Note there are other procession videos on YouTube, slightly incorrectly labeled as "funeral procession." They were filmed the day before, as Bowen's body was transported to the funeral home.)

The first apparatus to appear in the procession is Asheville Engine 1, serving as caisson. The second piece of apparatus to appear is Rescue 3, which was Capt. Bowen's fire company. Looks like the entire Asheville fleet is present, including nine engines, two quints (ladders), two aerial platforms, a medium-duty rescue, and a tanker. Also an Arson unit and an ATF truck, plus numerous small vehicles and light truck-based apparatus.

By casual count, there were at least another 28 engines, 11 ambulances, 9 brush trucks/small rescue trucks/midi pumpers, and one monster rescue truck participating in the procession. Plus too many small vehicles to count! Couldn't read the departments terribly well, however. In addition to the departments that participated in the procession, there were many others providing coverage in the city of Asheville.

Embedding of the videos on other web sites has been disabled, so here are the direct links: [watch part one](#) | [watch part two](#). Thanks 103, for taking the time to shoot and share. [See other blog postings](#).



AFD lined up the procession so that the trucks on the first alarm and such were first followed by their other trucks and then departments. I believe the vehicle I saw from the furthest away was Missouri or Alabama

Mike - 08/06/11 - 14:40

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Secrets of Night Photography

08/06/11 486 W, 1 I - + 5 - 4

[Yesterday's photos on Kent Road](#) turned out pretty good. Here's what happened, and how the pictures happened. Canon 40D, auto white balance, semi-spot metering. Shooting mode is Program Shift (P). That's what I always use.

The first set of photos, exterior fire attack in frame 1, started with 1600 ISO. That's the second-highest for my camera. There was too much motion and too little light, however. Only one of that series was a keeper. Then bumped the ISO to the highest setting, 3200.

By frame 4, the camera is facing the side of the structure. Still pretty dark. Still seeing a shutter lag that's longer than desired. The pics are still going to be blurry. (Mind you, this is all ambient light. Flash has been left in the car. Too many reflective surfaces to make that aesthetically effective.)

Next step is changing shooting mode, since the light is still rather low. Switch to Shutter Priority (tV), and begin spinning the dial until the shutter lag seems about right. Then, relocate to the rear corner of the structure (or, rather, the rear corner of the lot as facing the structure). The camera is now pointed toward a light source. This helps greatly. By this time, I have also removed the UV filter from the lens. That second piece of glass adds light specks and other unwelcome artifacts. Notably from all the various beacons and hand lights and any other source.

Also in the mix is metering. For most of these shots, the first attempt is pointing directly and shooting. If the result is either too bright or too dark, I point at a slightly darker or slightly brighter spot, and press the meter lock button. Then take the picture again. Rinse and repeat, until a properly exposed picture is made.

Let's see, what else to note? After 10 or 20 minutes, shooting mode was switched back to Program Shift (P). [Used a special LED camera](#) light for a couple shots, such as frame 47. Worked okay. Basically, like a sustained flash. For the roof shots, with the firefighter in silhouette, that's my second camera. Rebel XT, with a longer lens. The ISO goes only as high as 1600. But those shots were shooting into the light, the scene lights on the aerial bucket. That's the trick at night scenes. Shoot into the light.

Finally, for the portraits at the end, those are all also using the Rebel XT. They are flash photos, using the camera's pop-up flash. They are shot in close range, and with the camera cropping any reflective surfaces. The flash makes for harsher shadows, and an overall harsher image. But since those are people working at a fire scene, it effect works to the advantage of the image. In my opinion. [See the entire set of photos](#). Ask questions as desired. Or offer tips! Help me take better photos!



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.

Raleigh Fire Department Museum Open During Fire Expo, Saturday, August 13

08/06/11 155 W, 1 I - + 5 - 5

The Raleigh Fire Department Museum will be open during the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#), as part of its regular schedule of opening on the second Saturday of each month. On Saturday, August 13, the museum will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

A special shuttle service will be conducted from the Raleigh Convention Center to the museum, which is located at the Keeter Training Center, [105 Keeter Center Drive](#). The bus will make the rounds every 30 minutes. The shuttle is free, and museum admission is free.

The museum is presented by the [Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society](#). Located in a classroom trailer, it's a collection of artifacts and images representing over 150 years of firefighting in the Capitol City. The museum opened in May, 2011. Watch for another posting summarizing all historical events that'll be happening during Expo weekend. Click to view this PDF-format flier:

Visit the...

RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT MUSEUM
DURING THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FIRE RESCUE EXPO

Saturday, August 13 - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 105 Keeter Center Drive, Raleigh

	Leave Convention Center	Leave Museum
Drive one mile south from the convention center and turn right	10:00	
Free shuttle service from the convention center	10:30 11:00 11:30	10:45 11:15 11:45
Free museum admission	12:00 12:30 1:00 1:30	12:15 12:45 1:15 1:45 2:00

Presented by the Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society
 Learn more at the Raleigh Fire Department expo booth
 or visit www.raleighfirehistory.org

The Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Battleboro Rib Dinner and... Cow Drop

08/06/11 140 W, 1 I - + 6 - 2

From a reader, the *Rocky Mount Telegram* recently [posted a series of photos](#) of the Battleboro Community Fire Company's Rib Plate Dinner and Cow Drop. What's that, you ask? The last thing, a cow drop? Is that like the practice of tipping cows? Or, if you prefer Mater's version from the *Cars* movies, tipping tractors?

Nope, this one involves a game of chance, a small field divided into squares, and a release of material from an animal's anus. Got the picture? Sorry you asked?? Bob Bartosz snapped the shots, which show *everything*. Unknown if any special lens was required for this unique event. Can't tell from the photos exactly how much was won. But people sure looked to be having fun for, well, such a crappy event.



Bob Bartosz/Rocky Mount Telegram photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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

Mini USB to Micro USB Adapter

08/06/11 213 W, 1 I - + 5 - 1

Time for a geek report. Today, the subject is cords. Anything electronic involves one or more cords. They come in sizes and shapes and particular purposes. Input, output, power, pointing devices, etc. And they aren't always compatible from hardware to hardware. For example, your current non-Apple smart phone probably has an input jack for a USB mini plug. So you're powering the thing at home and in the car with a variety of adapters and cords. They all have a USB mini plug on the end.

Upgrade your smart phone, and you discover the input jack for power is smaller. Your USB mini plug doesn't fit. Do you run to Best Buy, and buy another round of cords for? Or do you try to find an adapter, something that will take your USB mini plug as input and produce a USB micro plug as output? The latter's the money-saver, although some places price such adapters as high as new cord. That's where eBay's useful. There are quite a few sellers overseas who sell such adapters for a couple bucks each. Shipping time is about 10 days. If you can wait, go cheaper and slower. Bought four of these babies for myself.



When I got my new phone I bought a bunch of them on Amazon for a few cents each!

Bmac - 08/06/11 - 21:10

I got 2. They started off great, but the connections (on both ends) became loose and either would not hold a good connection with the wire or in the phone. Cheap materials, cheap price – the new marketing theme of the Chinese Empire

Olson - 08/07/11 - 16:08

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

Morning News - August 7, 2011

08/07/11 523 W - + 6 - 3

Don't have good introductory text this morning, so let's just paste some [ipsum lorem](#) here: Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Vestibulum tortor felis, semper a euismod ac, consequat a tellus.

- [If Nuclear Disaster Struck, How Fast Could Triangle Scoot?](#) - *News & Observer* article about evacuation planning in the event of an incident at the Harris nuclear plant. My question is a far more personal one. What's your personal plan-- provided you're not responding to said incident-- for getting your family to safety, particularly if you're at work, the wife's at her work, and other family members are at other locations? Disasters, alas, happen at all hours.
- [Pre-Arrival Video: House Fire in Littleton, Colorado...](#) - Was watching that clip this morning, posted by Dave Statter. Good documentation of smoke and fire progression in a garage space. Also interesting is that there are *two* fire photographers on scene. So there are closer still shots as well as the other-side-of-the-street video.
- [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#) - That's this week in downtown Raleigh. Been posting announcements and fliers on the blog. There are a couple motorcycle events that also have fliers, that I haven't (yet) blogged about. Still more postings coming. Mr. Blogger will be presenting Friday at 1:30 p.m. for his state fire history workshop. He'll also be present at the RFD booth, for anyone who wants to talk shop, on Friday (10-11, 4-5) and Saturday (10-12).
- [Thursday Morning's Apartment Fire on Kent Road](#) - Those are the scene photos. [There's also a blog posting](#) on how they were made. The photos include the usual incident description, which mentions that one firefighter was injured with wrist injuries. That's a bit of an understatement, as the firefighter was transported to WakeMed with serious injuries to both wrists. Thoughts and prayers to him and his family. We'll watch for updates in news reports or other public-released information, to share with the blog audience.
- Social Media - Nothing linked here, just a teaser for a transcription that's forthcoming. Mike's notes from a social media panel at the Baltimore Fire Expo. One the scenarios discussed was Facebook and conversations about firefighter duty deaths. What happens when a responder dies on duty, and the family first learns of their passing via Facebook? You know, via the status updates that so quickly reveal that Something Has Happened, through status updates where people are suddenly wishing the best for a particular family?

This dynamic comes to mind this morning, as we blog about the injured Raleigh firefighter in the above news item. Over on Facebook, we're wishing well to the firefighter and his family by name. How much should we say or post on this blog about what's happened? I have not mentioned the firefighter by name, and that's intentional. They haven't been identified in either news reports or by officially released information. Should readers post comments with more identifying information? Should discussions add facts and information, or be kept more generic? Good questions to ponder. And hoping the best for the injured firefighter and his family.

My plan for the first bullet point is head between legs and kiss my butt goodbye

Scooter - 08/08/11 - 21:53

But on the upside, Scooter, there won't be anyone around for quarterbacking the morning after!

Legeros - 08/08/11 - 21:55

Name: (real name)

Remember personal info?

Historical Events at the Fire Expo

08/09/11 347 W - + 7 - 3

Friday, August 12

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Exhibit floor hours)

- Raleigh Fire Department booth at Raleigh Convention Center.
- Historian Mike Legeros will be at booth from 10-11 a.m. and 4-5 p.m.
- Details:
 - Learn about the [Raleigh Fire Department](#).
 - Information about the [Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society](#).
 - Photos old and new, historic film footage, and more.
 - Learn about the department's 100th anniversary in 2012.
 - New Raleigh Fire Department 100th anniversary coins for sale.
- To visit the exhibit floor, you must be registered to [attend the conference](#), or purchase a Day Pass valid for Friday only.

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- North Carolina Firefighting History workshop.
- Presented by Historian Mike Legeros.
- To attend any Expo workshop, you must be registered for the conference.

Saturday, August 13

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

- Fire apparatus parade down Fayetteville Street.
- Antiques appearing include Charlotte's 1902 steamer (drawn by horses!), Charlotte's 1920s pumper, and Raleigh's 1950 Mack pumper.
- Free.

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.?

- Antique fire apparatus that appeared in the parade, displayed outside convention center.
- Free.

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Exhibit floor hours)

- Raleigh Fire Department booth inside convention center (see above for details).
- Historian Mike Legeros will be at booth from 10-12.
- To visit the exhibit floor, you must be registered to [attend the conference](#), or purchase a Day Pass valid for Saturday only.

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

- [Raleigh Fire Department Museum](#).
- Located at 105 Keeter Center Drive.
- Free shuttle service from convention center to museum.
- Details:
 - Antique Raleigh fire apparatus to be display outside museum.
 - Meet members of the Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society.
 - This is the regular scheduled opening of the museum, second Saturday of each month.
- Free admission, free shuttle service.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- Live pumping by Charlotte's 1902 American LaFrance steamer.
- Pumping from corner of Cabarrus and McDowell streets east to Gales Street.
- Setting up the steamer starts about 10:30 a.m. It will be pulled in the parade by two horses, and the last antique in the show.
- Free.

Stop by Wake & District's booth to purchase our new cd, men's and women's t-shirts or band challenge coins. We'll be there on the vender door Friday and Saturday.

Mike - 08/09/11 - 20:19

And don't forget the Brotherhood BASH Friday night at Napper Tandy's starting at 7pm. Raffles to include a leather helmet, leather fire boots, and custom corn hole boards and plenty more door prizes!!! See ya there!!!!

Craig McDowell ([Email](#)) - 08/10/11 - 01:56

Craig, is that a historical or a hysterical event? Or both ! ? !

Legeros - 08/10/11 - 06:40

Yeah...whoops! Sorry Mike! Should have paid more attention to the post headline. See you Friday!

Craig McDowell ([Email](#)) - 08/10/11 - 10:15

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.

Stretching Lines / Mills Street

08/10/11 116 W, 1 I - + 7 - 1

Photographer Lee Wilson was early on scene at yesterday's house fire at [1072 Mills Street](#). Engine 9 arriving at a one-story, wood-frame, single-family dwelling with 1,339 square feet. Built 1993. Fire found on the back deck, with fire extended up through the roof. Crews forced entry, and entered structure. Engine 9 with their own water supply. Two additional engines and additional ladder requested. High temperature yesterday of 97 degrees. Dispatched 2:15 p.m. Controlled 2:54 p.m. Building unoccupied, one person displaced. No injuries reported. Cause determined as arson. Units on scene included: E9, E7, E6, E3, E1, E13, L4, L2, R2, A1, B1, B3, C10, C20, C40, EMS2, EMS36, EMS35, D3, T1.

[View the photos.](#)



Lee Wilson 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'?

Raleigh Fire Department Centennial Coins For Sale at Fire Expo

08/10/11 158 W, 1 I - + 7 - 7

The Raleigh Fire Department is approaching its 100th anniversary as a career fire department. Plans are being prepared for several activities in 2012, both public and private. The Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society is assisting with both planning and raising money for these events. Beginning on Friday, August 12, at 10:00 a.m., 100th anniversary challenge coins will be available at the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#).

This is the first fundraiser to help fund the anniversary activities. The full-color coins cost \$10 each, including sales tax. The coins are 1.5 inches in diameter. They will be sold at the Raleigh Fire Department's booth on the expo exhibit floor. Conference registration or a day pass is required to visit the exhibit floor. On Monday, 15, the coins will be available through the [Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society web site](#). Below is a picture of the coin design, shown to scale. Click to enlarge:



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.

Loading the Convention Center

08/11/11 77 W, 1 I - + 6 - 2

The red trucks were rolling into downtown Raleigh yesterday, and staging at the top-secret underground entrance to the Raleigh Convention Center. Hint on the location: Some nights, they play music really loud nearby. Have you heard about the fire and rescue convention that's in town this week? We might have posted one or two things about it. [See more photos from Lee Wilson](#). See you at the show tomorrow.



Lee Wilson photo

Ahem... According to the message trailer on the side of the road as you head into downtown, they are STAGGING.

I swear...

rfburns - 08/11/11 - 11:02

I couldn't really see it due to the angle of the overhead shot, but is that an Eastern Wake EMS unit on a Peterbuilt chassis? Does Lee have any other shots of it? Thanks.

Joffre ([Email](#)) - 08/11/11 - 17:04

rfburns... I saw it too... I had to check out what "Fire Truck Staging" was... only to be disappointed to see it was just trucks sitting in a parking lot...

shevais - 08/11/11 - 22:21

Well, the guys are studs, after all...

Legeros - 08/11/11 - 22:27

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

This Morning's Bus Fire

08/11/11 50 W, 1 I - + 6 - 5

Traffic cameras captured this morning's bus fire on the exit ramp from Interstate 40 to the Beltline. Engine 10 first on scene. Engine 12 and Battalion 2 joined, with other units including Haz-Mat 1 returned to service. Quickly extinguished. Bet the onlookers got a good show! Click to slightly enlarge:



And here's a slideshow of the thing, from WTVD: <http://abclocal.go.com/wtvd/gallery?sect..>

Legeros - 08/11/11 - 08:17

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'?

Eastern Wake's New Freightliner Kenworth Ambulance

08/12/11 66 W, 1 I - + 10 - 4

That's EMS 68 operated by [Eastern Wake EMS](#), and photographed by Lee Wilson on the show floor at the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#). Is this the first Freightliner-Kenworth ambulance in these parts? That is, not counting the two ambulance-body Raleigh Fire Department rescue units delivered in the early 1990s? [See more of the truck](#).



Lee Wilson photo

How did I read Kenworth but type Freightliner? If I start exhibiting slurred speech, please call an ambulance. Any chassis is fine.

Legeros - 08/12/11 - 08:26

Mike, FYI about medium duty units in the area, other than the hospital based CCT units-

Smithfield bought a Freightliner ambulance back in 1995 and ran it for around 8-9 years. Crews and patients hated it because of the ride.

FirstHealth of the Carolinas operated Freightliner and International ambulances from 1997 in Chatham County. Crews and patients hated them because of the ride.

Garner EMS ran three Internationals prior to merging with WCEMS. Rolesville and Garner operated Chevy/GMC Top Kick/Kodiak chassis ambulances, as did FirstHealth.

WCEMS currently has several Freightliners and Internationals (including the ones from GEMS) in service.

DJ - 08/12/11 - 12:59

These type of trucks are made for long haul transports, not regular EMS calls. They can't get down rural roads and such. Hope it serves them well.

oldmedic - 08/12/11 - 18:28

heard some comments yesterday that it is set up to be a bariatric unit as well?

shevais - 08/13/11 - 11:42

Shevais... according to the rep and the DC that brought the truck in, yes it is set up to be a bariatric truck with the ramp and all extending out from under the rear bumper

Swiman - 08/13/11 - 21:11

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.

North Carolina Firefighting History, Today at 1:30 p.m.

08/12/11 173 W - + 3 - 4

Room 306C of the Raleigh Convention Center at the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#). Conference registration required. Don't be alarmed by the absence of a Hawaiian shirt, or any signs for the workshop that say 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The session length is 90 minutes. We'll stop at 3:00 p.m. Here's a high-level overview:

- Introduction. Tell joke here.
- North Carolina in the late 1700s.
- How things started. Community fire protection. First fire companies, equipment, apparatus, etc.
- Firefighting in the 1800s.
- Steamers, horses, hydrants, alarm boxes, etc.
- Firefighting in the early 1900s.
- First paid departments, motor vehicles, station sizes, training towers, etc.
- Firefighting in the mid 1900s.
- Institutional departments, World War II, rural departments, fire prevention divisions, etc.
- Firefighting in the late 1900s.
- Rural department growth, EMS and EMT, black and female firefighters, yellow trucks, etc.
- Haz-mat, honor guards, technical rescue teams, etc.
- The end. Tell another joke here.
- Questions and answers.
- Sources for history.
- Sanborn Maps, newspaper articles, oral histories, etc.
- Questions and answers.
- Big finish.

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'?

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

Blog and More via Twitter, Facebook

08/12/11 84 W - + 7 - 1

Read this blog via Twitter at twitter.com/legeros. All postings are repeated there. Plus there's additional, exclusive content. In addition to Legeros Fire Blog posting, you'll see tweeted links to local and national fire-related content.

Read this blog via Facebook, via the [Legeros Fire Blog facebook group](#). All postings are repeated there. Click "Like" and the postings will appear in your Facebook news feed. You can also comment via Facebook, but it won't be anonymous!

So, I read on this blog about your postings on Twitter, so I went to Twitter, and everything linked me back to here. So, I clicked the next link for Facebook, and clicked on one of the postings there, and it linked me back to here! If I'm already here, why am I following links to Twitter and Facebook to follow links back here? Oh, so confusing!

Pardon me while I put my Facebook in the corner and Twitter in solitaire for a moment...

rfburns - 08/12/11 - 12:05

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

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

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.

Dump Truck Versus House in Durham, Boating Accident on Falls Lake

08/12/11 130 W, 1 I - + 5 - 2

Couple unusual accidents to report. [WTVD has posted this aerial photo](#) of a dump truck that collided with a residence in Durham. It happened about 6:30 a.m. on Sherron Road at Mineral Springs Road. Is that Durham city or Durham county? Unknown if anyone was injured. Been quiet on vehicle versus building accidents in recent weeks, it seems.

[WRAL has a short report](#) on last night's boating accident on Falls Lake. Three people were transported, after being ejected from their craft. The location was near the Barton's Landing boat ramp on Six Forks Road. Bay Leaf FD, Stony Hill FD, Falls FD, and Wake County EMS were among the agencies on scene, recalling the radio traffic.



WTVD photo

That part of Sherron Rd. is in the county I believe, Bethesda Sta. 1 is less than 1 mile from there. Said the driver fell asleep at the wheel, some injuries.

A. S. Meier - 08/12/11 - 16:05

I believe that Falls Park Rangers also got their boat ready to go last night

Dubs - 08/12/11 - 17:04

concerning the dump truck versus house, It was probably auto aid with both the City and Bethesda.

charlie - 08/12/11 - 17:16

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

You Think You're a Precision Driver?

08/12/11 73 W, 1 I - + 6 - 4

Here's North Carolina Department of Transportation heavy equipment operator Willie Baines showing his skills during a "rodeo" event on Wednesday at the fairgrounds. That was a competition for NCDOT employees statewide this week. It tested their safety awareness and skills. Photographer Shawn Rocco took this pictures, which demonstrates excellent [depth of field](#). See more photos in [this slideshow](#).



Shawn Rocco/News & Observer 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'?

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

Show Floor

08/12/11 67 W, 1 I - + 7 - 3

That's Rolesville's big daddy ladder truck on the show floor at the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#) at the Raleigh Convention Center in downtown Raleigh. It's again open again tomorrow, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. As for the ladder, the 2011 Ferrara Inferno HD mid-mount 2000/300/100-foot will be placed in service on September 11. More information on that special event is forthcoming. [Click to enlarge:](#)



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.

Visiting Apparatus

08/12/11 86 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

These two lovely ladies from the Charlotte Fire Department are parked at Central Fire Station in Raleigh tonight. Left is a 1928 American LaFrance triple combination. Right is a 1902 American LaFrance steamer. Both are appearing in tomorrow's fire apparatus parade down Fayetteville Street, as part of the Fire Expo. Horses will be pulling "Old Sue," as the steamer is named. Then a pumping demonstration takes place on Cabarrus Street between Gale and McDowell streets. That'll be around 11:30 a.m. Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

Caption This Photo / Crazy Camera Guy

08/12/11 62 W, 1 I - + 4 - 8

Fool with FOOLS? Jowls and Dolls? Meet the Creeper? That's somebody we know on the show floor, posing at the Capitol Area FOOLS slash Wake County Firefighter's Association booth. Love the Heatmiser hair, buddy. And a nifty method of preventing camera breakage: add faces more attractive than your own!



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.

Lids

08/12/11 100 W, 1 I - + 6 - 9

As of 9:00 p.m. this evening, some 300 hundred (rough guess) firefighters, family members, and friends were having a blast at the First Annual Brotherhood Bash at Napper Tandy's Irish Pub. The thing started at 7:00 p.m. and is still underway. They were getting ready to announce raffle winners when Blog 100 cleared the scene. A performance by the Atlantic Beach Fire Department pipes and drum band had just wrapped. Great, great fellowship at the event. It's sponsored by the Capital Area FOOLS and the Wake County Firefighter's Association. Go ahead and swing by. It's still early. Click to enlarge:



Thanks to everybody who came out that helped to make this event a huge success. All proceeds from the raffle are going to the NCFPP, and it will be close to \$2,500. Thanks to Napper Tandys for their amazing hospitality, and the members of the ABFD Pipe Band for gracing us with the great sounds! Make plans to attend again next year!

shevais - 08/13/11 - 21:39

This was my first time to visit the expo and what a great time i had. The hospitality shown by all was remarkable! I made it out to Napper Tandys and had a wonderful time and already planning to attend next year! Great show of Brotherhood!!

Robert Simmons - 08/14/11 - 11:19

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Shelby Communications Patch

08/14/11 116 W, 1 I - + 5 - 10

Found for sale on eBay, here's a uniform patch for telecommunicators in Shelby. The thing is listed as an older patch. There's no additional context, but it raises a great Sunday morning discussion question. How many dispatch centers in North Carolina require their personnel to wear uniforms? Second question, does wearing a uniform make a difference in the performance (or even just the perception) of the job? Guess we could expand that last one across fire and EMS. Do you deliver better service, the better or more formally dressed you are? Chief officers, do you have a different take than what the troops perceive or demonstrate?



we wear khaki pants with a collared shirt that has our dept logo on it at work. i know of a few centers that USE to wear full uniforms.

Zack a - 08/14/11 - 15:47

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

Roanoke Island and Hatteras Fire Departments on "My Heart Will Always Be in Carolina"

08/14/11 231 W, 2 I - + 7 - 4

UNC TV tonight aired a splendid episode of the regionally produced "My Heart Will Always Be in Carolina." The half-hour episode focused on the origins of volunteer firefighters in Dare County, and specifically the early years of the Roanoke Island and Hatteras volunteer fire departments. The show is broadcast on several public and commercial channels around the state. See this [web site for a listing](#). Check your local listings to see if it's still airing after tonight. Maybe it'll even be posted online.

[Roanoke Island Fire Department](#) was created in 1974 as a merger of the Manteo and Wanchese fire departments. Both departments are mentioned, but the merger isn't. Manteo's is the earlier department, dating to 1928. The [Hatteras Volunteer Fire Department](#) dates to 1960, says Secretary of State records. They're business name is the Hatteras Fire Protective Organization.

The episode included interviews with charter and early members of both departments. They talk about subjects ranging from door-to-door fundraising to the training they received from the Department of Insurance. Also shown a number of old photos. These two appear on [the show's Facebook page](#). Left is an early downtown fire in Manteo. Right is the original Hatteras engine, a four-wheel drive Howe pumper delivered new. Perhaps readers can share others. Send and we'll post. Click to enlarge:



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.

Best Blog Comment Ever?

08/16/11 288 W - + 5 - 3

[From Statter911's posting](#) about a determined Detroit firefighter ascending a roof with a ground ladder. News helicopter captured his first and second attempt in close-camera glory. Readers are entirely polarized in their reactions to the footage. The user named Whatever adds this perspective, which might be the single best summation on blog-based reader comments yet written:

Blah blah blah.

I'm better than you. I've eaten more smoke. I live on a roof. You're an idiot. I'm smarter. I like PPV. Me too. I think that's stupid. No you're stupid. Try being a real firefighter. Get your head out of the standards and journals. Try being a modern firefighter. Get bent hairbag. Why don't you read something from this century? I'm a fire instructor. So am I. The job is dangerous. People are dangerous. You're a fat slob. Get a grip. Get a clue.

Have I summed this and most other comment threads up well enough?

What a bunch of whiny little bitches. You remind me of my 7 year old nephew and his friends.

Every department does their own risk benefit analysis (whether they admit that is what it is or not). The analysis for Detroit that can afford to throw dozens of firefighters at a two story frame is different than for the department that shows up with a ten guys for the same job. Both departments get the job done. They just do it differently. That doesn't make it wrong. It just makes it different.

Not that I think I'm going to change the minds of any of you fire service bigots; I just needed to vent.

I'm quite certain there's somebody who will tell me I'm doing it wrong....

Awesome...

Lt. Lemon ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 08/16/11 - 17:09

"Whatever" for president!

Spanky - 08/16/11 - 20:03

liked it so much I had to post it again...sums up blogging

Blah blah blah.

I'm better than you. I've eaten more smoke. I live on a roof. You're an idiot. I'm smarter. I like PPV. Me too. I think that's stupid. No you're stupid. Try being a real firefighter. Get your head out of the standards and journals. Try being a modern firefighter. Get bent hairbag. Why don't you read something from this century? I'm a fire instructor. So am I. The job is dangerous. People are dangerous. You're a fat slob. Get a grip. Get a clue.

Have I summed this and most other comment threads up well enough?

What a bunch of whiny little bitches. You remind me of my 7 year old nephew and his friends.

Every department does their own risk benefit analysis (whether they admit that is what it is or not). The analysis for Detroit that can afford to throw dozens of firefighters at a two story frame is different than for the department that shows up with a ten guys for the same job. Both departments get the job done. They just do it differently. That doesn't make it wrong. It just makes it different.

Not that I think I'm going to change the minds of any of you fire service bigots; I just needed to vent.

I'm quite certain there's somebody who will tell me I'm doing it wrong....

loveit - 08/19/11 - 17:31

Guess those are some of the thought balloons that float around the day room, when firefighters are having non-anonymous conversations on these topics!

Legeros - 08/19/11 - 18:24

Morning News - August 16, 2011

08/16/11 384 W - + 6 - 5

Good morning, Raleigh. Here at Blog Central, we're basking in the post-Expo silence. Had a great time this weekend, saw and spoke with tons of folks. What's on tap for next year's workshop? Fire photography maybe, and perhaps as a panel discussion. Had that idea last year. Looking this morning for news reports or maybe footage from Van Dyke Avenue. Early morning house fire, and with a dead hydrant to complicate matters. Listened to that one entirely, before returning to bed. Anyway...

- [More photos and footage of Old Sue in action](#) - Our posting from Saturday has been updated. Added links to pics from Lee Wilson (parade, demo), John Franks (parade), and FireNews (demo). The latter includes a video clip! There should be other video clips surfacing, as camera's were everywhere. Send me a note.
- The social history of early firefighters in North Carolina - Read the comments in the [Charlotte steamer posting](#), for some perspectives on history from Yours Truly.
- [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Photos all posted](#) - Legeros finished his yesterday. Six categories of shots, including his ever-popular/ever-terrorizing portraits. Lee Wilson finished his the day before. Need to add [John Franks set](#) to the page.
- North Carolina State Firemen's Association is still the North Carolina State *Firemen's* Association - Proposed name change was defeated, we're told. See Page 6 of the [NCSFA's summer newsletter](#) (PDF) for details on what was proposed.
- [Raleigh Fire Department 100th Anniversary Coins now available](#) - They're being sold through the Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society, as a fundraiser for activities for the fire department's centennial next year. Ten bucks each, plus shipping.
- [When Social Media Goes Right](#) - That's my headline for Dave Statter's astonished reaction to a blog discussion that ended on a postive note. On the side of the coin, see this morning's [posting about a Detroit story](#) and comments therein.
- [A Heavy Climb on 9/11](#) - *Cary News* story about Morrisville's upcoming memorial stair climb on September 11. Time to start compiling a list of all 9/11 activities in these parts.
- [911 Tapes to be Altered to Distort Voices](#) - *News & Observer* story from last week, about a new law allowing public safety agencies to distort the voices on publically released 911 tapes.

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Hidden Hydrant

08/16/11 47 W, 1 I - + 6 - 1

Here's your hidden hydrant for today, found in the 6300 (?) block of Hillsborough Street by Engine 14, at an outside fire outside an unoccupied warehouse building. So many outside fires! Wonder if Locution will ever slip and say outhouse fire?



Outhouse fire would have fit a couple years back in Umstead.

Spero - 08/16/11 - 21:49

Or at the state fair in 2010

yup - 08/17/11 - 08:07

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

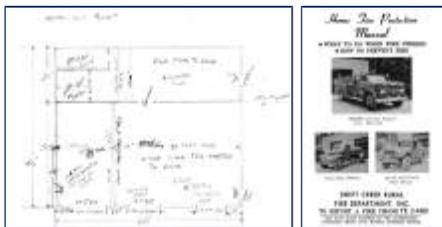
Swift Creek Fire Department Celebrates 50 Years of Service

08/17/11 187 W, 14 I - + 4 - 2

[This week's Cary News](#) has a profile of the Swift Creek Fire Department, which is celebrating 50 years of service this year. The article traces the history of the department, which was organized in 1960 to protect the unincorporated communities of Swift Creek and Macedonia. They were named Swift Creek Rural Fire Department, though they've since dropped "Rural" from their name.

They're also just one of two remaining fire departments in Wake County that does not utilize full-time members. In their first years, they answered around 30 calls each year. Today, their 33 volunteers and 13 part-time members answer about 50 calls a month. Their response area, notes the story, is bound roughly by Holly Springs Road to the west, Tryon Road to the north, Lake Wheel Road to the east, and Penny Road to the south. [Read the story.](#)

Let's augment this look back with a few historical images from our files. Who, when, where, and when? Let's let readers caption these photos. Mr. Blogger has to go work. He'll fill in the gaps later. Click once or twice to enlarge:



Happy 50th Swift Creek!!

A.C. Rich - 08/19/11 - 20:13

Thanks A.C.

Griggs - 08/20/11 - 18:06

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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.

Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - Wilmington Firefighters « Swift Creek Fire Depa... » Fleas Release Me Help One of Their Own After Fall Leaves Him Paralyzed

Wilmington Firefighters Help One of Their Own After Fall Leaves Him Paralyzed

08/17/11 135 W, 1 I - + 5 - 6

From a reader, [here's a WECT story](#) about Wilmington firefighters who have busy outfitting the home of fellow firefighter Eric Lacewell. He recently fell while on duty, and sustained injuries that have left him paralyzed from the shoulder down. He underwent spinal surgery at New Hanover Regional Medical Center, has been to Atlanta to learn to use a quad chair, and is presently at a facility in Raleigh, where he's continuing his adjustment and preparations to return home. Lacewell lives in Columbus County, SC. His fellow firefighters have been building a wheelchair ramp at his residence, with lumber donated from 84 Lumber in Wilmington. They're also planning a celebration to welcome him back, when he returns home. [Read the entire story.](#)



WECT photo

Anyone know were in Raleigh he is located? Maybe some of us could vist if he wanted some company.

Rob Mitchell - 08/18/11 - 20:09

I'll check and get back to you. He was in Atlanta for some time and the firefighters of the AFD checked on him regularly too. We certainly appreciate it. Eric is one of those guys that is always positive and very uplifting in any circumstance. I did here earlier today that he was coming home a lot sooner then anticipated. So I'll get info asap.

Ryan

Ryan - 08/18/11 - 21:00

Just got word that Eric will be coming home on the 25th.

Ryan - 08/18/11 - 22:30

...Blueridge by Crabtree.

Ryan - 08/18/11 - 23:05

E16 stopped by his room Friday afternoon just to check in and let him know we are there for him if he needs us. I felt bad when he told us he had been there since mid June and we were just now making our first appearance a week before he departs but what can we do when we just learned of him being there? Oh, well. If anyone reading knows him personally please tell him we were serious when we told him not to hesitate to call #16 if he needs anything. A-platoon was informed at shift change and they agreed they'd do anything they could to help as well. C-platoon will be informed in the morning.

B.Winn - 08/21/11 - 12:04

Here's a picture from Saturday, when A-shift firefighters and others paid a visit:



Legeros - 08/22/11 - 21:51

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

Fleas Release Me

08/18/11 110 W - + 7 - 4

Been itching to write a punny headline lately. [Jumped on this story](#) from Waterbury, Connecticut. Crews entered an abandoned building on a hazard-check, and exited as insect collectors. The four firefighters we literally coated. They bugged out to the hospital, where they endure a circus of undressing, scrubbing, and checking for flea-borne diseases. Scratch that activity from their preferred list of pastimes! The engine was also fumigated. Bet that was a gas. Everyone's fine, says the Chief. Not hopping mad, or anything. One more story to tell. And a great goofy story for those crawling the fire web, unless it's just too much. Flea while you can.

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.

Caption This Photo / The Electric Slide

08/18/11 84 W, 1 I - + 5 - 5

Every Thursday evening in the summer, the shaggers come a-callin' at North Hills Mall. Or it is Main at North Hills? Or Shoppes at North Hills? Or North Hills Plaza? What is the thing called, these days, anyway? Didn't catch the band name, but they sounded good! Caught a few swing dances, as well. Here's an Electric Slide in progress. Back behind the camera, Engine 9 is over at the roundabout, clearing a medical call. Click to enlarge:



I found Waldo!

JJBLFD - 08/19/11 - 13:03

...and at that very moment, she realized she was dating a moron.

Jake - 08/19/11 - 13:49

I think he was saying, "Really Mike.....really, I cant go anywhere anymore."

everywhere - 08/19/11 - 19:06

That one's pretty good, Everywhere.

Legeros - 08/19/11 - 19:08

Y-M....oh

Beach - 08/19/11 - 21:12

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

The Future is Here: Drones on the Fireground

08/19/11 54 W - + 8 - 4

From [this posting by Statter911](#), here's footage from a hobby/business group in Portland that operated three quadcopters at a live burn. ([Drone](#) = unmanned aerial vehicle designed for recon.) What are the benefits for incident commanders? This video tells a thousand words and then some:

I want one! Cool video

2redline - 08/19/11 - 10:22

I personally dont see a huge benefit in this. Especially when you look at cost vs. benefit. I'm just assuming that this thing will be pretty pricey! Now, if it could go in the fire that would be a different story. I could be wrong, but I wouldn't go comparing it to the invention of the TIC. Just my 2 cents!

Rhodes - 08/19/11 - 18:49

Here's a variation of a question that I posted on Statter's site: do you favor more eyes or fewer eyes on the fireground? With more eyes, you get more intel for incident commanders. But there's more seeing of what's might be done "wrong." Maybe those drones are exciting for IC, but scary for incident review?

Legeros - 08/19/11 - 18:51

I could see this as having potential. The usage would take away another person on the fireground, because for obvious reasons it wouldnt be very usefull having IC using this thing, safety would be too busy... I dont see who would be able to pilot the thing other than maybe a chiefs aid, which how many departments have those? Maybe the inspector if they arive early? as the the incident review question, if big brothers eye in the sky catches you doing something "wrong" then you should learn from your mistakes. I understand how you dont want to be caught doing something wrong, but the ability to help firefighters learn from their mistakes and not alienate, embarrass, or down right call someone out is a leadership issue. Another topic for another post....

Capt. Chaos ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 08/19/11 - 23:07

I think it's cool! atleast cool video. Could help on big box fires yes but then again a ff on the tip of a arial giving a birds eye view could work also(if it's blowing the shingles off)haha just kidding! I wish I came up with the idea you know somebody will buy into it!

Jason Lane - 08/19/11 - 23:36

Darley has them for sale. Complete with High def camera and thermal imaging. First saw it in the Darley Times insert in fire magazines and then looked at the website.

Eugene Beard ([Email](#)) - 08/20/11 - 03:47

Hazmat or USAR scene fly-overs would be very helpful! Outfit with a FLIR and use for local area missing persons searches.... The uses are almost limitless in special ops (...and it would be a good tool at larger fires too!).

A.C. Rich - 08/20/11 - 09:54

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.

Two Raleigh Firefighters Struck on I-40

08/19/11 214 W, 1 I - + 6 - 6

At a scene of a vehicle fire this afternoon on Interstate 40-- at the entrance ramp from Hammond Road-- two firefighters from Raleigh Engine 2 were struck as a passenger vehicle entered the scene. The second vehicle struck at least two other vehicles, and injuring three other people. The two firefighters sustained minor injuries, and were transported to WakeMed. Three other civilians were also transported, including one in serious condition.

Engine 2 and Engine 20 were dispatched to the vehicle fire about 4:10 p.m. Engine 20 was still en route at the time of the accident, which occurred about 4:20 p.m. After the reported accident, Engine 1, Engine 3, and Engine 10 were dispatched. Battalion 3, Car 10, and Car 2 also responded. Medical resources included EMS 8, EMS 11, EMS 18, EMS 36, and District 1. [Here are scene photos from today](#) by Mike Legeros. We'll add news stories a bit later, as well as any updates as provided.

The accident occurred just a couple hundred feet east of where Engine 1 was struck by a passenger vehicle on January 25, 2011. They were blocking for Engine 2 at an accident scene. No firefighters were injured at that incident, but the driver of the car was transported.



10:46 p.m. update. News links, with minimal reporting:

- [NBC17](#)
- [WRAL](#)
- [WTVD](#)

Thank God that our brothers are ok! Hope PD enforcess the move over law to it's fullest ppl need to wake up and pay attention when they see public safety vehicles! be safe!

Jason Lane - 08/19/11 - 23:30

Was very concerned when I heard this call. Very glad our brothers not seriously hurt. A little time and rest and thankfully they will be fine. Thought it interesting (disturbing?) that while the news outlets mentioned this on their websites, not one of them covered it in their evening broadcasts.

TimB ([Email](#)) - 08/20/11 - 10:34

WRAL had it as their lead story on the 6:00 p.m. news, but it was only a 15-second mention.

Mrs. Blogger - 08/20/11 - 11:54

Glad to hear everyone made it home safely! As a side note, I saw a picture from Mike's album from The Lake Drive fire and noticed that you, Lt. Lane, had Fire Dex gear on? Is this just gear that you were trying out or does/has RFD ever issued Fire Dex? Not trying to call you out LT but just interested! Stay safe brothers.

Ben Davis - 08/22/11 - 09:33

Ben there is I believe 7 firefighters in the county that are trying out gear through Fire Dex, Globe, and Morning Pride.

911 - 08/22/11 - 17:53

Ben you aint calling me out! 911 is correct there are wear test ginnie pigs 5 from the county and 2 of us from RFD that are wear testing the companies that put in bids for the next round of gear purchasing. We did this back in 06,07 with lion apparl, globe and morning pride. Hope that answers your call out! be safe brother! RFD has never worn fire dex! Now we can shoot this over to the historian mr. blogger on what gear brands has RFD worn. I will try with this, globe, jansville, morning pride, globe, securitex, globe, morning pride. Gear for 500 please Alex!

Jason Lane - 08/22/11 - 20:28

Does Raleigh order the same spec gear that County orders, What about Cary

Scooter - 08/22/11 - 21:45

Scooter did the county departments go with morning pride around 06/07? thats what we went to during last spec orders.

Jason Lane - 08/22/11 - 22:02

Cary has been purchasing the Morning Pride gear that the rest of the county buys with a few changes

shevais - 08/23/11 - 00:10

Wake and Raleigh have used the same spec from the Fire Commission's Wake Co. Equipment Committee since (I believe) 2005. A joint effort for bulk purchasing advantages from the same bid.

A.C. Rich - 08/23/11 - 00:43

Thanks guys, I can sleep now that I know the answer! haha

Ben Davis - 08/23/11 - 09:16

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'?

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

American, Not American LaFrance

08/20/11 251 W - + 6 - 10

South Carolina fire historian Grant Mishoe has provided an important correction to [last week's posting](#) about "Old Sue," Charlotte's 1902 steam engine displayed and demonstrated on Saturday at the South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo. The apparatus was manufactured by the American Fire Engine Company, and not American LaFrance. The latter wasn't formed until 1904. Comments from Grant on both the apparatus and the company:

[Old Sue] is a 1902 American Fire Engine Company steam fire engine. It was built in 1902 on a Fox boiler. This is not an American LaFrance steamer. ALF did not come into existence until 1904.

Talks [to merge American and LaFrance] were started in 1903, but it was official and [the company was] formed in 1904. It was officially known as American-LaFrance [and was] later changed to American LaFrance.

[The company] was a product of the fallout of the International Fire Engine Company, which was broken up. They took the two biggest names in the company and called it that.

A-L designers were working on a motorized vehicle in 1903. When they became A-L in 1904, two were delivered. They made two more in 1904 and 1905 of this type. They then made one in 1906 and two more in 1907 and 1908. The first Type 5s were not delivered until 1910. I have all the serial numbers and pictures of these rigs.

Though [Charlotte's steamer] was purchased from International Fire, it was still built on an American Fire frame. International was more of a trust, with the individual brands working underneath the umbrella.

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.

The Amazing Color-Changing Aerial Ladder Fire Engine

08/20/11 122 W, 2 I - + 9 - 10

Ever seen a fire truck change colors as a cloud passes? Here's Raleigh Ladder 4 showing the same thing as it executes a turn during driver-operator training on Poole Road. The tiller transformed into a brighter-red rig, as direct sunlight strikes the side of the truck. This also ably shows why apparatus photography is best in bright sunlight. Sun behind the camera, of course. The maker of this photo, meanwhile, was turning his mind back two decades, to his last few months as a firefighter, and training as an assistant driver on Truck 16. That was the 1979 Mack/1958 American LaFrance tiller. Remember that one? Good times. [See more photos from this afternoon.](#) Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name)

Remember personal info?

Do You Suffer From Decision Fatigue?

08/21/11 272 W - + 5 - 7

Among the articles available for your Sunday morning reading is [this compelling piece](#) from the *New York Times*. What the heck is "decision fatigue?" That's a new discovery by social psychologists that's found that people have finite stores of mental energy for making decisions. And as that energy drops, the ability to make decisions is effected. Interesting stuff. Makes you think about thinking. Here's an excerpt to whet your appetite. Now decide if you want to read the thing...

"Virtually no one has a gut-level sense of just how tiring it is to decide. Big decisions, small decisions, they all add up. Choosing what to have for breakfast, where to go on vacation, whom to hire, how much to spend — these all deplete willpower, and there's no telltale symptom of when that willpower is low. It's not like getting winded or hitting the wall during a marathon. Ego depletion manifests itself not as one feeling but rather as a propensity to experience everything more intensely. When the brain's regulatory powers weaken, frustrations seem more irritating than usual. Impulses to eat, drink, spend and say stupid things feel more powerful (and alcohol causes self-control to decline further). Like those dogs in the experiment, ego-depleted humans become more likely to get into needless fights over turf. In making decisions, they take illogical shortcuts and tend to favor short-term gains and delayed costs. Like the depleted parole judges [cited in the article], they become inclined to take the safer, easier option even when that option hurts someone else."

Fascinating and very relative to the fire service. I will read more... On the surface, I agree. I would love to see the correlation between "ego depletion" and sheer "self actualization" of sorts to matters or subjects relative to one's own decision making interests. Maybe it appears as wisdom on the surface when it is simple apathy or even anxiety... Which trait prevails more often? For example: "Why does the older, more mature leader of the FD make such an absolute or seemingly rash decision?" One could easily assume it is simply "old age" and the diminished capability to tolerate BS! It is indeed more complicated.

A.C. Rich - 08/21/11 - 09:55

It is quite fascinating, AC.

Does a chief officer perform better at decision making on scene at night, if he hasn't spent the day using that energy for administrative tasks? For example.

Wonder was research for responders has been done? The fire service works hard hard hard to build and maintain physical strength. What about mental strength?

Legeros - 08/21/11 - 10:03

(In my opinion) I believe this condition appears as two facets: (#1) your individual disposition for decision making stamina due to "experience" and "exposure," and (#2) [the intent of the article] where decisions are more accurate when made "early." For example, and with an seeming inverse correlation effect... if you are a candidate in an assessment center, you will potentially be assessed more thoroughly if you are scheduled first, or in the first day. The assessors will be much more detailed in their comments of your performance. However the candidates that appear later (let's say the middle of the second day) will potentially be assessed more lenient due to this fatigue phenomena; AND potentially receive a better resulting score.

As for mental strength and the maintenance of consistency, I believe we as a "fire society" don't do justice to our fire service leaders by training them (or more especially challenging them) in the higher levels of decision making to develop and maintain skills (mental strength). Indeed, fire ground safety comes into perspective when the decisions are potentially more lax.

A.C. Rich - 08/21/11 - 10:53

Now we know why its so hard to decide on meals.

Jake - 08/21/11 - 15:19

To a lesser extent, yes!!

A.C. Rich - 08/21/11 - 18:21

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.

Here's Your Big One

08/21/11 140 W, 2 I - + 5 - 4

Saw this photo in a posting on Firegeezzer yesterday. Was taken by Heather Harley-Davidson-- how's that for a great name!-- for Jacksonville's *Florida Times-Union* on Friday. The incident involved a service station, a fuel tanker, and above-ground storage tanks. How many of the latter are around here, by the way?



Heather Harley-Davidson/Florida Times-Union photo

How hot was the spot that the photographer standing? Looking closely, it appears conditions were comfortable for a passing bicyclist and someone in a bright yellow-green shirt. Observe the scene tape. Hot zone starts here, no duh. Where's the police? They're probably securing the many roads the approaching the scene. Where are all the spectators? They probably ran for their lives. [Read the posting on Firegeezzer](#), and the [story in the Florida Times-Union](#).



Heather Harley-Davidson/Florida Times-Union photo

Reminds me of the fire outside of Wilson, NC in Contentnea; in the early 1990's. A MC 306 tanker by a country store. Big Fire (some may remember). Mike may have some history on that one for readers' interest.

A.C. Rich - 08/21/11 - 11:34

Interesting you say that A.C. Retired Chief Phil Lewis loved showing a video of that to his students at Wilson Tech in the fire program. I bet I watched it at least three times.

Marcus - 08/21/11 - 20:19

No dice on web searches for that tanker fire. Anyone got even a definite year for the thing? Tell me more about the incident.

Legeros - 08/21/11 - 20:21

Seems like that tanker fire was around '94 or '95 while I was going to Wilson Tech. Driver didn't ground the truck properly while off loading if thats the one I am thinking of.

gen3fire - 08/21/11 - 21:37

Marcus, I am surprised Chief Lewis had time to show a video when he wasn't talking about fishing with his grandkids. :) I enjoyed his classes. I wonder how he is doing.

gen3fire - 08/21/11 - 21:40

The fire was at the Roney Williams Store on NC 42 heading out of Wilson towards Clayton. A.C. was right it was in the Contentnea Fire District with mutual aid response by the City of Wilson Fire / Rescue Services. KC is right about the approximate years, not sure which though. As for Chief Lewis, he is doing great and still teaching, fishing and talking about his grandkids! Marcus and KC, come see us sometime. Phil teaches Monday/Tuesday classes. We are now located above the library with new classrooms and lab space. Glad you guys seem to be doing well.

D.Cates - 08/21/11 - 22:19

A little more searching shows April 1995 as the date of the episode of American Heat that featured footage from the fire. So 1994-1995 sounds right.

Legeros - 08/21/11 - 22:22

Dead on David! I have a copy of the uncut video too and have showed it endless times in HM Ops classes over the years. The video was from a WTVD news crew that was just passing by and caught the early stages of the fire. The video is a fantastic tool for teaching fire behavior in 306 tankers. The video was also on American Heat. The fire started (ironically) when Capt. Eudy and I were teaching one of RFD's initial Ops Plus classes at Station 20. I believe it was late November or early December 1994. You can see what appears as snow flurries on the video.

A.C. Rich - 08/21/11 - 22:30

Holy Stromboli Batman! You know that firetrucks bun is baking on that scene! Running for you life would probably be a good idea.... but what fun is there in that? If I were in the area, id probably take my shirt off and ride my bad to the bone BMX around the area..... wait.....

Capt. Chaos ([Web Site](#)) - 08/21/11 - 23:14

There was also a big incident in Franklin County a number of years ago. It was at L.H. Dickens Propane. White Level Fire Department is located right beside it. There was a video of that too. Centerville had a old International gas tanker with straight pipe stacks that was talking out loud on the video. Hey AC remember the original Bertha that Rolesville had that come from Jones Dairy. Dad and Jimmy Gay could make that sound off too.

Rob Mitchell - 08/22/11 - 19:17

Wonder how easily we could convert some of that old video footage to digital files? I would be happy to host on my YouTube account, copyright issues notwithstanding

Legeros - 08/22/11 - 19:24

I remember Big Bertha well!! Mike – I can get you the VHS copy I have and you may digitize it!

A.C. Rich - 08/22/11 - 20:05

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

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

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

08/21/11 105 W, 1 I - + 7 - 8

[The weiner-shaped vehicle](#) in this mobile phone photo isn't much of a mystery, so we'll make this one a caption contest. Seen turning onto Glenwood Avenue from Brier Creek Parkway. Wonder how the thing rides? Good suspension, or does the driver get bruised buns? How's the cabin comfort, you suppose? A person could get dog-tired driving that thing! Though, truth be told, they probably relish their time behind the wheel. As for the photo, the Blogmobile was a couple car lengths behind. Tried to get a better one, but couldn't... ketchup. Thank you and good night.



And let's hope the thing never gets into an accident. Can you imagine the size-up of the arriving unit!?!?

Legeros - 08/21/11 - 20:25

The Dog Days of Summer

JLBL - 08/22/11 - 09:12

"Bad puns run rampant in wake of Wienermobile".

Duda ([Email](#)) - 08/23/11 - 09:57

That thing looks to be about a footlong....

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 08/23/11 - 14:02

"Bloggers alliteration doesn't cut the mustard with Oscar Mayer aficionados."

Duda ([Email](#)) - 08/25/11 - 09:57

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

News From Asheville

08/22/11 311 W - + 7 - 4

Yesterday, [Statter911 posted a nice story](#) about a memorial motorcycle ride in Asheville on Saturday, part of one of many ongoing fundraisers to benefit the family of Capt. Jeff Bowen. He was killed on July 28, at a intentionally set fire at a medical office building. As Dave notes, the AFD IAFF Local 865 has posted a list of both upcoming and [prior fundraisers on their web site](#). The community and the brotherhood has really come together for the Bowen family. Additionally, a special fund has been established for the education of Capt. Bowen's children, and to assist the other firefighters injured in the July 28 incident. [See this page for more information](#).

Also on Saturday, the [Asheville Citizen-Times posted a story](#) with new details about the fatal fire, notably about the nearly 38 minute delay before water was applied. The problem is cited as "due largely to a faulty standpipe." The article's sources include public records, the fire's incident report, fireground audio records released through an open records request (which is different than the unofficial audio released on YouTube), and an interview with Fire Chief Scott Burnette. Dave also recaps the article in this posting. (Most of the content of this posting is swiped from his posting, truth be told!)

And the [first comment has been posted](#), a passionate and critical response to the news of the news report. Will the thing start a shouting match? Be met with silence? Gets me thinking about talking. How much time should pass, before blog-based critical comments (and even commentary) should start? What's a respectful period of silence? Maybe (certainly?) it's a sliding scale, based on severity and even geography. It's a question you'll also see debated in the dusty streets of the Wild West, e.g. the [Firehouse forums](#). Of course, they take no prisoners over there. Discuss as desired.

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.

Weekend Planning, Part 1

08/22/11 19 W, 1 I - + 9 - 1

Projected path of Hurricane Irene, from WRAL web site:



So do we panic and grab Milk & Bread now or wait? ;)

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 08/22/11 - 20:18

I am hitting the stores for emergency supplies of Hawaiian shirts...

Legeros - 08/22/11 - 20:33

Cant forget the dry goods.

Jake - 08/22/11 - 22:54

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

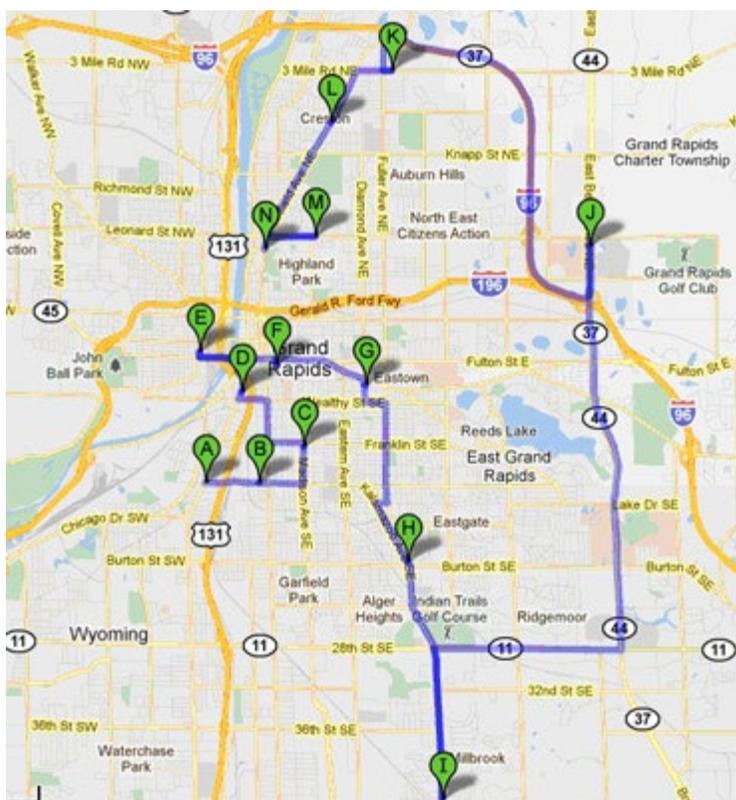
Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an editor.

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

Travel Planning, Part 1

08/22/11 85 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

Adventure Boy lands in Chicago in a couple weeks. Planned excursions eastward include a day trip to Grand Rapids, Michigan. That place is loaded with historic and former engine houses, including five from the late 1800s and three from the early 1900s. Fifteen structures to see and shoot. That's where Google maps adds an assist, to optimize the best route. Let's hope every address was entered correctly, or there'll be course corrections come travel day!



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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

/ [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

Morning News - August 23, 2011

08/23/11 199 W - + 7 - 4

Good morning Raleigh! Let's cruise a couple headlines before departing Blog Central:

- [Cherokee County Flea Market Burns](#) - FireNews story with photos and details of a 44,000 square-foot structure fire on July 30. Ranger, Murphy, and Bellview fire departments on the initial dispatch. Then things started scaling upward. Pictures by Ranger firefighter Jeremiah Smith.
- [Yes, Troopers Really Do Help People](#) - *News & Observer* story about a good news story out of Martin County. Trooper Skye Stone assisted the motorist, who had both a blown transmission and a 75-year-old mother in tow. Nice to read some good press.
- [Hurricane Irene First Big Threat to US, NC in Years](#) - WRAL story, though it's leading on all the news sites. Has it really been almost three years since a hurricane has seriously threatened the mainland? Maybe we'll start sharing storm planning stories.
- [Pilot Crashes into a Tree in Sanford](#) - WTVD posted a post-incident interview Sunday, after a paramotor pilot crashed his craft into a tree near Raleigh Executive Jetport. Maybe readers can tell about the response and the rescue. Curious name for an airport, as well, since it's rather far from the Capital City.

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.

All Shook Up

08/23/11 174 W - + 5 - 3

They say the Triangle experienced an earthquake early this afternoon. Mr. Blogger blissfully missed any rumbling or shaking from his second-story office in Cary. Guess his mind was elsewhere. Everyone else on his floor spilled into the hallway, exclaiming how the earth moved under their feet. The cause of the 1:51 p.m. shaker was a 5.8-magnitude earthquake centered near Mineral, VA. That's some 40 miles northeast of Richmond. Shocks were felt up and down the east coast, and as far inland as Ohio. It was no laughing matter in the nation's Capitol, where buildings were evacuated and some parts of structures collapsed. Locally, WRAL asked eastern North Carolina residents to refrain from calling 911 to report the earthquake. The Raleigh-Wake County Emergency Communications Center tweeted a similiar message: "Only call 9-1-1 for an emergency. Only call if you have a fire, injury, or damage from the earthquake." (And to think we were worried about a hurricane just this morning. Oh wait, we still are.) Readers, what happened where you were?

This was my first quake! I was in the 9-1-1 center when it happened. The phone volume immediately blew up! I haven't taken that many calls in such a short period of time since Hurricane Fran. The funny thing was that nobody had an emergency; they just wanted to report an earthquake! What protocol card is that?!!!

John W. Franks ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 08/23/11 - 18:41

This was second, the first being a middle-of-the-night shaker in Los Angeles, many moons ago. I observed that Facebook exploded, minutes after the quake today. EVERYONE posted something about it in their status.

Legeros - 08/23/11 - 18:43

For a few minutes following the tremors, cell and internet use capability were VERY inhibited! I guess we were all burning up the bandwidth on FB!

A.C. Rich - 08/23/11 - 18:52

...and then I felt compelled to buy bead and milk... I couldn't understand.

A.C. Rich - 08/23/11 - 19:13

After living in Los Angeles for 5+ years, this was a baby quake for me. However, that didn't stop me from rushing to stand underneath a sturdy door frame. :-)

Mrs. Blogger - 08/23/11 - 20:05

I was on a phonecall assisting one of our photographers in GA when I felt a little shake...my first thought was: "my company is based in Durham...probably just someone getting blown up on I85 or Durham Freeway"....then I started to receive the tweets and FB messages...Best FB status has to go to Wake EMS Asst Chief J. Olson...I don't wanna steal his thunder so I will let him post here what had me laughing out loud at work if he wants...

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 08/23/11 - 21:12

Nothing like the one at Presidio Monterrey in Spring 1990. Barracks shook and we decided to stay outside that night. Tornadoes, hurricane, and earthquake in six months. What next?

DJ - 08/23/11 - 22:20

What next? The volcano erupting, throwing lava over everything in sight! Then the price of foodstuff skyrocketing! There will be nothing for the Scarlet Pumpernickel to do, but blow his brains out...

Legeros - 08/23/11 - 22:28

After Mike's post I could not help posting this classic movie exchange:

Dr. Peter Venkman: This city is headed for a disaster of biblical proportions.

Mayor: What do you mean, "biblical"?

Dr Ray Stantz: What he means is Old Testament, Mr. Mayor, real wrath of God type stuff.

Dr. Peter Venkman: Exactly.

Dr Ray Stantz: Fire and brimstone coming down from the skies! Rivers and seas boiling!

Dr. Egon Spengler: Forty years of darkness! Earthquakes, volcanoes...

Winston Zeddemore: The dead rising from the grave!

Dr. Peter Venkman: Human sacrifice, dogs and cats living together... mass hysteria!

Mayor: All right, all right! I get the point!

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 08/23/11 - 22:32

@ Marshall – "That would be bad."

I just don't get why people would think it prudent to call 911 to report an earthquake or any natural disaster. Call 911 when there is a RESULT of an earthquake or natural disaster (besides your coffee or 40oz. spilling).

Duda ([Email](#)) - 08/24/11 - 10:27

Im in Virginia only about 30 min from Mineral and it shook us a little bit. Nobody was hurt just some glasses falling in the school bookstore and food tossed in the dining hall. Nothing all that bad.

Watters - 08/24/11 - 10:55

was at the pool with the kids and kept looking around for the kid shaking my freaking chair. never found them

AB - 08/24/11 - 15:26

Twitter factoid from the Raleigh-Wake ECC: They received 602 phone calls from 12:00-15:00 [yesterday], compared to 389 the previous day for the same time period.

Legeros - 08/24/11 - 18:32

almost 400 emergency calls in 3 hrs for a "normal" day. Way too many. Add 200 more, and that gives you about 400(+) idiots that shouldn't be allowed to use a phone.

lee - 08/25/11 - 01:17

That stat is a little misleading; we took 210 calls the first 20 minutes! So almost all those calls came in right after the quake. Interesting to note is that we only had 1 dispatch (that I know of) related to the earthquake. We dispatched RFD and RPD to assist with evacuating the Archdale Building.

On a personal note, I have to admit that I haven't answered that many 9-1-1 calls in rapid succession since Hurricane Fran.

John W. Franks ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 08/25/11 - 10:37

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'?

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

Raleigh's Finest 5K, Saturday, September 10

08/23/11 202 W, 1 I - + 4 - 4

This five-kilometer race is being held to honor Andrew "A.J." Johnson and Harry "Flip" Kissinger, and other members of the Raleigh Fire Department who have lost their lives both on- and off-duty. Johnson and Kissinger were killed in automobile accidents in December 2008 and December 2009, respectively. "A.J." was a First Class Firefighter assigned to Station 11; "Flip" was a Lieutenant assigned to Station 6. Both were dedicated to the fire service, and their wives are dedicated to honoring their husbands and that profession.

Melissa Johnson and Jill Kissinger are the event organizers. The race starts at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 10. The course starts at Fire Station 6 at [2601 Fairview Road](#), and continues on a flat 1.6 mile course to Fire Station 5 at 300 Oberlin Road. Then the runners and walkers return to Station 6, following the same route. Registration for the event is \$30.00 before August 26, and \$35.00 after that time. Proceeds will be donated to the 200 Club of Wake County and the North Carolina Fallen Firefighter's Foundation. Read more about the event on the [Raleigh's Finest 5K Facebook page](#). Register online on this [Active.com page](#).



not to sound ugly, but shouldnt it be "Raleigh's Bravest"???

fire - 08/26/11 - 17:34

Yeah, I kind of agree. Raleigh's Finest would indicate the Police, Raleighs Bravest would indicate fire.

traditional - 08/26/11 - 18:05

I thought the same

Mike - 08/26/11 - 18:18

I always thought that the gold leaf "RFD" on the doors of all Raleighs trucks stood for Raleighs FINEST Department"

Galax,Va - 08/27/11 - 17:58

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Mystery Buildings

08/23/11 17 W, 1 I - + 8 - 2

Let's see how quickly these can be identified...



I dont what they were used for, but they are located at the Morgan St. right near the new traffic circle that connects to Hillsborough St. This is the back side of them.

feels abandoned - 08/24/11 - 11:35

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](#))

Boots Needed For Tunnels to Towers Run in Wake Forest

08/24/11 95 W, 1 I - + 5 - 6

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Wake Forest Fire Department is collecting boots for the [Tunnels to Towers Run in Wake Forest](#) on September 11. They're planning to line the finish line with 343 pairs of boots to represent the firefighters who died at the World Trade Center attacks on September 11, 2001. They've collected about 200 pairs to date. They'll take new or used, borrowed or donated. Can you assist? [Read this Destination Wake Forest](#) story for more information about the boot drive.



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'?

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

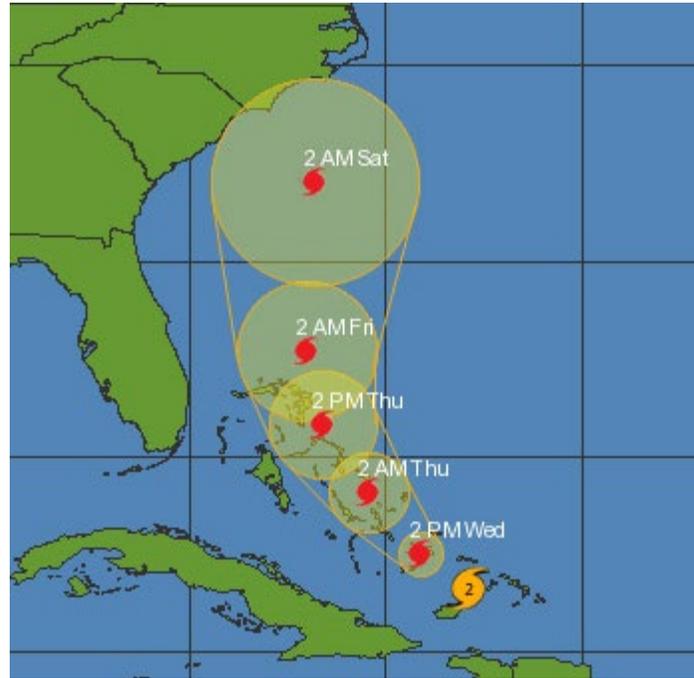
Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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.

Weekend Planning, Part 2

08/24/11 31 W, 1 I - + 9 - 4

Projected path of Hurricane Irene, as of 5 a.m. from [Weather Underground](#). How's busy are you preparing and/or panicking?



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'?

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

Wake County Fire Service Leadership Overview

08/24/11 2035 W - + 7 - 5

As a public service to our readers, Mike Legeros, A. C. Rich, and Lee Price present an overview of fire service leadership in Wake County. The information is delivered in the format of an FAQ. First, though, let's identify the speakers.

Mike Legeros is the historian, author, and photographer who runs this blog. A. C. Rich is Fire Chief of the Stony Hill Fire Department, in addition to a career firefighter in Raleigh. Lee Price is Asst. Chief of the Wake-New Hope Fire Department, in addition to a career firefighter in Rolesville.

Below is their best attempt to explain the many heads of the hydra that we call "local fire service leadership." We'll start with the fire commission, and work our way outward.

Q: What is the Wake County Fire Commission?

A: It is a group of people appointed by the Wake County Board of Commissioners, and empowered as a group to make recommendations to the County Commissioners, about aspects of the fire service within the control of the county. This web site lists the expected duties of the Fire Commission: <http://www.wakegov.com/fire/commission>.

Q: Who are the members of the Fire Commission?

A: Conceptually, they consist of:

- One County Commissioner.
- Four primary regional representatives of the county-funded fire departments: one for north region, one for south region, etc.
- Four alternate regional representatives, for above.
- The president of the Wake County Firefighter's Association.
- One representative from the town of Wendell.
- Five citizens, also called "consumers."

The specific members are listed on a web site (<http://www.wakegov.com/fire/commission/members.htm>). However, that page is out of date at this time.

Q: How can you get appointed to the Fire Commission?

A: Fire Commission members are appointed in two ways:

- Citizens/consumers are appointed by a vote of the County Commissioners. They express their interest through an application form (<http://lnweb02.co.wake.nc.us/boards/boards.nsf/WebApp>).
- Primary and alternate regional representatives are recommended by their respective regions, and submitted directly to the Wake County Clerk of Court via the Wake County Fire Marshal.

Q: Do the Commissioners factor additional information into their appointment of citizen/consumer members, beyond just the application form? Should I get to know my Commissioner, if I want to apply?

A: It certainly couldn't hurt! The County Commissioners are people, too. They make decisions based on their knowledge and experience. The more they know of you, and have experienced you, the more that can be applied to any decisions regarding your application for membership, should they face that decision.

Q: Nice, safe answer there.

A: Thank you.

Q: You said that the Fire Commission makes recommendations to the County Commissioners? I thought the Fire Commission was the governing body for the fire service in Wake County?

A: Negative. The Fire Commission makes recommendations only, and only within a set of parameters:

- Budget – Both operating budgets and capital expenses. Operating budgets are the monies appropriated each fiscal year to county-funded fire departments. Capital expenses are one-time costs, for larger purposes or projects, such as building fire stations.
- Staffing – County-funded firefighter positions, and the issues therein, ranging from salary and benefits to allocation of the positions.
- Apparatus – County-funded vehicles, both small and large, and the issues therein.
- Equipment – County-funded equipment, such as PPE.
- Facilities – County-funded facilities, as well as county-funded improvements to private-owned facilities.
- Contracts – The language of the document used in fire service contracts between Wake County, and both public and private-owned fire departments.

Q: Are the recommendations of the Fire Commission always followed?

A: Not necessarily. The Wake County Board of Commissioners has the authority to ignore the recommendation of the Fire Commission, and make alternate decisions on facilities, apparatus, staffing, etc. The recommendation of the Fire Commission is also reviewed by the Wake County Manager, for his approval and recommendation, just like any other department in Wake County government.

Q: How often does the Fire Commission meet?

A: They meet on the third Thursday of every other month. The location is the Wake County EMS Training Center, which is located in the lower level of the Wake County Commons Building at 4001 Cary Drive in Raleigh. The meetings start at 7:00 p.m. They last anywhere between one and three hours. The very short meetings and very long meetings are rare.

Q: Are the meetings public? Can I attend? Can I stand up and speak?

A: Fire Commission meetings are open to the public. Citizens are welcome to attend. The attendees are typically the Fire Commission members, the Fire Marshal, Wake County Fire Services staff members, other county and local municipal officials, and officers and firefighters from the county-funded fire departments. Plus, some guy in a Hawaiian shirt.

Q: Why do you keep saying "county-funded fire departments" instead of just "county fire departments?"

A: We're trying to be accurate. The Wake County Fire Commission has limited governance over fire departments in Wake County that receive funding from Wake County. Those departments include some municipal-run fire departments (Fuquay-Varina, Zebulon, etc.), some municipally based (but privately operated) fire departments (Garner, Wendell, etc.), and some privately operated "rural" fire departments (Hopkins, Stony Hill, etc.). The label "county-funded fire departments" seems the most accurate, but excuse our shorthand if we subsequently say just "county fire departments."

Q: What about the Fire Commission subcommittee meetings? Are they also public? What about all the other governing bodies?

A: Yes, the Fire Commission subcommittee meetings are also public meetings. So are the Board of Director's meetings of privately operated fire departments, as are the town council and city council meetings of municipalities.

Q: How can I get a copy of those meeting schedules?

A: Contact the Wake County Fire Services office. Here's a web page with contact information: <http://www.wakegov.com/fire>.

Q: Can I get copies of those meeting minutes?

A: Minutes of the regular meetings are posted to a web site, which is also out of date: <http://www.wakegov.com/fire/commission/minutes>. Subcommittee minutes are not posted on that web site. Thus, for both, contact the Wake County Fire Services office. Here's a web page with contact information: <http://www.wakegov.com/fire>.

Q: Do the County Commissioners have control over the fire services in Wake County?

A: In part, yes. Wake County government has control over some, but not all aspects of fire service delivery in the county. What are the exceptions? For example, if you live within a municipality, they call those shots. That is, they call those shots but within greater regulatory structures. For example, there are state requirements that all fire departments must follow.

If you live within an unincorporated area that's outside of a municipality, the county has greater control over the fire service that you receive.

But not absolute control. Wake County does not operate any fire departments. Instead, it contracts with private- or public-operated (municipal) fire departments.

Q: But because the county contracts with those departments, can the county call the shots in those cases?

A: Yes and no.

The Wake County fire service contract is the governing element for the fire department's relationship with the county. Unless it is specified in the contract, and not withstanding local, state, and federal laws, departments are bound to the performance standards indicated in that document.

That's why we have some differences in the way the fire departments in Wake County operate. Each fire department has its own set of policies, procedures, and vision on how fire services are operated in their district. There are differences in the way it's done in New Hope versus Stony Hill, for example. And outside of what's stated in the contract, neither the county, nor the Fire Commission, plays any role in those operational decisions.

Q: So there's no Wake County Fire Chief?

A: Correct.

Q: Then who leads the fire service in Wake County?

A: Leadership is shared or distributed among several individuals and groups. There's the county Fire Services office, led by the Wake County Fire Marshal. They provide input to and work with the Wake County Fire Commission. Both groups provide input to the Wake County Board of Commissioners and the County Manager.

Q: Plus the individual fire departments, right?

A: Correct. Private fire departments--which are non-profit corporations-- are led by a Board of Directors, which appoints the Fire Chief and perhaps other positions. It varies from department to department, and board to board. Public fire departments are those run by municipalities. They're led by a Fire Chief (or similar position) and his command staff, who also reports and receives guidance from a city or town council or commissioners, and a city or town manager.

Q: It's very complicated! Why isn't it easier to understand?

A: Because it is very complicated.

Q: What's the role of the county Fire Marshal and the Fire Services office?

A: Their duties include emergency response activities, code enforcement, fire prevention, training, and administrative assistance to the Fire Commission. The staff and their roles are detailed on this web page: <http://www.wakegov.com/fire>.

Q: How many different kinds of fire service contracts are there in Wake County?

A: There's the contract that Wake County uses with private and public fire departments to provide protection to unincorporated areas.

Then there are contracts used by municipalities to supplement the fire protection services. For example, there are places within the city limits of Raleigh that require fire protection at a level of service greater than the Raleigh Fire Department can presently provide. Thus, a second fire department is contracted, to provide protection to those areas. For example, in a newly annexed area, the city often contracts with a county fire department, until such time as a new city fire station has opened and is protecting that area.

Q: Doesn't a municipality have to contract with a county fire department if they annex that territory?

A: Yes, there's a state law that requires the annexed fire department to be contracted or receive contract income for a number of years after the annexation.

Q: How many municipalities are there in Wake County, by the way? And how many public versus private fire departments?

A: Here's the list.

- Apex – Municipal, but also contracted by county for "rural district."

- Bay Leaf – Private, contracted by county.
- Cary – Municipal, and recently contracted by county to protect "rural district" formerly covered by Western Wake Station 2, now closed.
- Durham Highway – Private, contracted by county.
- Eastern Wake – Private, contracted by county.
- Fairview – Private, contracted by county.
- Falls – Private, contracted by county. Presently merging with Wake Forest FD.
- Fuquay-Varina – Municipal, but also contracted by county for "rural district."
- Garner – Private, contracted by county.
- Holly Springs – Municipal, but also contracted by county for "rural district."
- Hopkins – Private, contracted by county.
- Knightdale – Municipal.
- Morrisville – Municipal, but also contracted by county for "rural district."
- Raleigh – Municipal.
- RDU Airport – Private. Operated by Airport Authority, which is kinda like a municipality.
- Rolesville – Private, contracted by county.
- Stony Hill – Private, contracted by county.
- Swift Creek – Private, contracted by county.
- Wake Forest – Combination of municipal and private. Special case. Also contracted by county for "rural district."
- Wake-New Hope – Private, contracted by county.
- Wendell – Private, contracted by county. Also a special case, where all residents, both inside the town limits and in the rural district, are taxed in a manner different than the county-wide fire tax.
- Western Wake – Private, contracted by county.
- Zebulon – Municipal, but also contracted by county for "rural district."

Q: Are you guys available for speaking engagements, weddings, or bar mitzvahs?

A: Check with our agents.

Wow this is the most informative posting and I must have missed it before. I have a couple questions that I hope can get answered to best "answerers" ability

- 1) Is there a benefit to having one said FD, a county based system, for Wake County much like EMS where all the rules and standards are the same and everyone knows what everyone has? Is that model possible? Is it fiscally feasible? Is it fiscally cheaper than the 13 or so FD's we have and all their chiefs and pay?
- 2) How many firefighters, approx, does wake county have?
- 3) How much duplication of services does Wake County have, for say both "FD A" and "FD B" have a boat paid for by the taxpayers when they could both as quickly respond to the same area?
- 4) Will we see more mergers in the near future that are not county forced like the Wake Forest and Falls merger? Will we will see more county forced mergers, can the county force a merger?
- 5) Are we doing what is best for the citizens of wake county? Could we do it better? If we are not doing what is best how are we working to improve what we are doing to make it better? If we are doing it the best way to go GUYS!!

Thank you, really hope to get some answers on these questions, it is very interesting topic to me and I think this post you guys did was one of your best. Please post further things like this, A LOT learned here by me

Have a great day and god bless

ncems - 09/13/11 - 19:19

Thanks for reading, NCEMS. Glad that you found our information informative. The questions that you pose might be tricky to answer, as they require a more subjective perspective. Well, except, number two, the number of firefighters in the county. We'll see if someone has that answer. And perhaps number three, which might require more prognostication than anything else. (Paid 50 cents for that word, thank you very much.) The other questions are going to require some opinions. Because we might have different perspectives on what is a benefit, what is a duplication, what is "doing best." Myself, I favor discussions along the lines of "right-sized" resources. What does a right-sized fire department or fire services structure look like. But even that— right-sized— is subject to interpretation.

Legeros - 09/14/11 - 09:42

Mike

Thank you, I truly did find this very informative, and yes a couple of those questions are opinion based which does make it harder to answer. Though, I def like to hear all sides of the coin.

"Right-sized", I like that. Sometimes that can mean we need to increase protection, but it can also mean we could decrease in certain areas allowing us the ability to increase where needs to be. HAHA, a little hard to read that one I know

ncems - 09/14/11 - 12:34

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.

Beer, Books, and Big Fires

08/24/11 523 W, 1 I - + 6 - 7

Bought a new book this week. *Beertown Flazes - A Century of Milwaukee Fire Fighting*. Published in 1971, written by R. L. Nailen and James S. Haight. Purchased on eBay. This one's an old school-style history book. Hardcover, heavy on text, light with photos, and a double dozen appendix pages. No personnel portraits, no yearbook layout. Nary any color pictures. I've lately collected a few of these, and have found them an appealing alternative to the glossy products of our current, digital-publishing age.¹

Sitting on my shelf are older volumes from Washington, DC (1971), York, PA (1976), Detroit (1977), and Minneapolis (1979). The last one, written by the late, great Richard Heath, has inspired a number of my approaches to recording and presenting history. And can't forget those two great books out of Baltimore: *The Unheralded Heroes of Baltimore's Big Blazes* by William A. Murray (1995 reprint of 1968 book, plus two supplements), and *The Rigs of the Unheralded Heroes* by William F. Snyder and William A. Murray (1971).

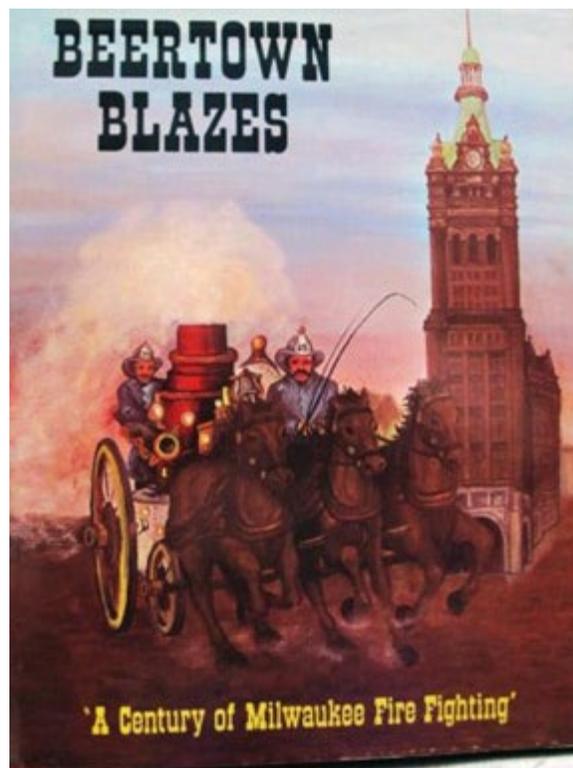
Will Adventure Boy ever visit Milwaukee, and commence digging about for old engine houses? Who knows. But the book can still be enjoyed, both for its content and its presentation. Particularly neat is an appendix on the city's biggest fires. The authors have listed the top 100 conflagrations, dating to the Blatz Brewing Company fire of 1873. Here's their introduction to that section:

"As we said earlier in this book, the definition of a "big" or "bad" fire is up to you. Many old-timers remember for a lifetime a blaze where they almost "got it," which nevertheless made no headlines. You have to look at total loss, size of firefighting force, casualties, firefighting problems, and threat to other property.

"Taking those things into account, we came up with our list of the 100 top fires in Milwaukee during the past century. If your favorite didn't make the list, don't be insulted--there just wasn't room for every contender."

Neat concept, listing a century's worth of top fires. And a hundred of them, no less! What would Raleigh's top 100 list look like? We've [blogged about that subject before](#), about assessing our biggest blazes. Has Raleigh even had 100 really big, real corker of a fire, barn-burning multi-alarm fires? Certainly not in comparison to many of the older and denser cities in the United States.

Heck, the same applies statewide. Our biggest cities are still comparatively young and smaller sized, and even alongside some of the older cities in the south. Our urban centers have never been burning, not with the historical ferocity seen elsewhere. So maybe a Top 75 or Top 50 list is a better choice, for ranking some of the biggest ones in our city's history. Memo to self: Work on that some time.



¹To the best of my knowledge, there are no full-text histories of North Carolina fire departments. Most of the commemorative volumes have been yearbook-style. Most with historical sections, mind you. A few departments have more recently produced glossier and more artistically designed books: Raleigh, Charlotte, and Greensboro come to mind.

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.

Evening News, August 24, 2011

08/24/11 233 W - + 8 - 1

Late and belated reports from here, there, and everywhere...

- [Apex Officer Alerts Residents to Apartment Fire](#) - WRAL reports the unidentified officer was on routine patrol when he spotted smoke coming from apartments on James Street. He reported the fire, and awakened and evacuated residents. One unit sustained fire damaged, and a second had smoke damage.
- [Fire Prompts Rental Property Debate](#) - *Eastern Wake News* story about building codes in Wendell.
- [Frozen Chickens Burn, Close Interstate](#) - That's my headline for the WRAL story of this morning's incident on I-40 near Highway 751. Two lanes were closed for about five hours. Hot brakes led to the frying friers.
- [Pizza Hut Destroyed Overnight](#) - Happened in Fayetteville. Says the Observer: "Employees [...] thought they smelled smoke in the building before closing time Tuesday night, but they decided it wasn't and left for the night, authorities said. Two hours later, flames ripped through the restaurant, destroying the building [...]." Lesson learned!
- [Teen Rescued From Linville Falls](#) - A reader passed along a pair of news stories about last week's helicopter rescue of a teenager from Linville Falls. The N.C. Army National Guard helicopter was from here, and was conducting training with five members of the N.C. Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (HART). (Were the rescuers also from here?) Read the [Asheville Citizen-Times story](#), and [see some WSPA footage](#).

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'?

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

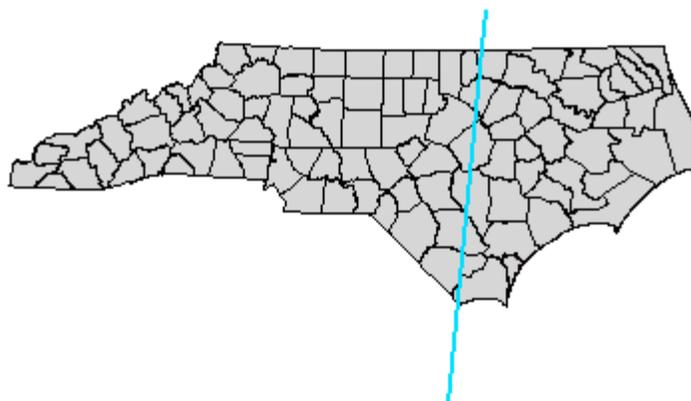
Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hurricane Hazel in Raleigh, 1954

08/25/11 646 W, 1 I - + 9 - 7

In 1954, a much smaller version of the Raleigh Fire Department faced Hurricane Hazel. Their seven engine companies and two truck companies responded to dozens-- well, a couple dozen-- calls over the course of a weekend. It was one of their busiest weekends, said the newspapers. For four decades, Hazel was recognized as the benchmark of tropical weather in this part of the country. Hurricane Fran then took that crown in 1996. What did the fire department response look like, when Hazel blew through Raleigh?

Hurricane Hazel, 1954



From the Monday, October 18, 1954 edition of the *Raleigh Times*:

Raleigh firemen experienced one of their busiest weekends as a result of damage wrought by Hurricane Hazel.

The following telephone calls were answered on Friday:

- 8:05 a.m., 23 Bragg Street, electric wire, no damage;
- 10:04 a.m., 1206 Park Drive, rug on fire, damage not estimated;
- 11:30 a.m., 20 E. Cabarrus Street, electric wires, no damage;
- 1:40 p.m., 714 Glenwood Avenue, electric wires, no damage;
- 2:05 p.m., Lenior and Salisbury, electric wires, no damage;
- 2:35 p.m., Colleton Road, house, damage not estimated;
- 3 p.m., 500 S. Salisbury Street, tree on auto, damage no estimated;
- 3:55 p.m., Carolina Buck Company, use of ladder needed;
- 6:40 p.m., 400 block Oberlin Road, electric wires, no damage;
- 7:15 p.m., 908 Fayetteville Street, oil stove, no damage;
- 8:40 p.m., Cabarrus and Cutler, electric wires, no damage;
- 9 p.m., S. East Street, electric wires, no damage;
- 10:15 p.m., 500 block Salisbury Street, tree on fire, no damage;
- 10:53 p.m., 128 N. Harrington Street, inspection;
- 11:30 p.m., Bloodworth and Edenton Street, inspection

Calls on Saturday included:

- Box 313 alarm at 7.31 a.m., Manly and Pugh Streets, oil stove, no damage;
- 2:10 p.m., Mullins Lane, electric wires, no damage;
- Box 241 alarm at 5:32 p.m., Martin and State Streets, oil stove, damage not estimated;
- 7:17 p.m., 2931 Wade Avenue, electric wires, no damaged;
- 8:39 p.m., 109 N. Boylan Avenue, electric wires, no damage;

- 8:46 p.m., same as above;
- 11:36 p.m., Franklin and Person Streets, brush and smudge pot on fire, no damage.

Sunday's calls included:

- 2:45 a.m., 2302 Byrd Street, electric motor, no damage;
- 9:05 a.m., 319 S. Dawson, inspection;
- 10:12 a.m., Sawyer Lane, chimney, no damage;
- 1:40 p.m., 400 block Peace, bus on fire, no damage;
- 12:41 to 421 N. Bloodworth Street, look for lost child;
- 2:52 p.m., to 13 Maiden Lane, tree about to fall, no damage.

As for the size of the Raleigh Fire Department in 1954:

- In 1950, RFD had 6 stations protecting 10.9 square miles and 65,679 residents
- Starting in 1950, RFD had two shifts, working 24 on, 24 off
- That same year, 83 new personnel were added.
- In 1954, city had six stations with 7 engines, 1 aerial, and 1 service truck.

By comparison, Raleigh FD in 2011:

- 27 stations protecting 142.902 square miles and 388,926 residents
- Staff of 568
- Twenty six stations with 28 engines, eight trucks, three rescues, four Battalion Chiefs, one Division Chief, various Haz-Mat and USAR units. Approximately 35,000 calls per year.

Hurricane Hazel Background:

October 15, 1954: Hurricane Hazel, the eighth Atlantic hurricane that year, makes landfall in Brunswick County, N.C. Storm surge at coast is greatest in state's recorded history, striking at exact time of highest lunar tide of year. Coastal regions receive some of most destructive winds ever, with estimates in several locations of 150 mph gusts. At Raleigh-Durham Airport, gusts to 90 mph are recorded around 1:30 p.m. All told, nineteen people are killed and over 200 injured; 15,000 homes and structures destroyed; 39,000 structures damaged; 30 counties with major damages; and estimated \$136 million in property losses. When combined with other states, Canada and Haiti, numbers climb to 600+ dead and estimated \$350 million in property damage. Source: *North Carolina's Hurricane History, Third Edition* by Jay Barnes, UNC Press, 2001

A version of this posting was [published on FireNews.net on September 26, 2003](#), after Hurricane Isabel passed through the Carolinas.

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

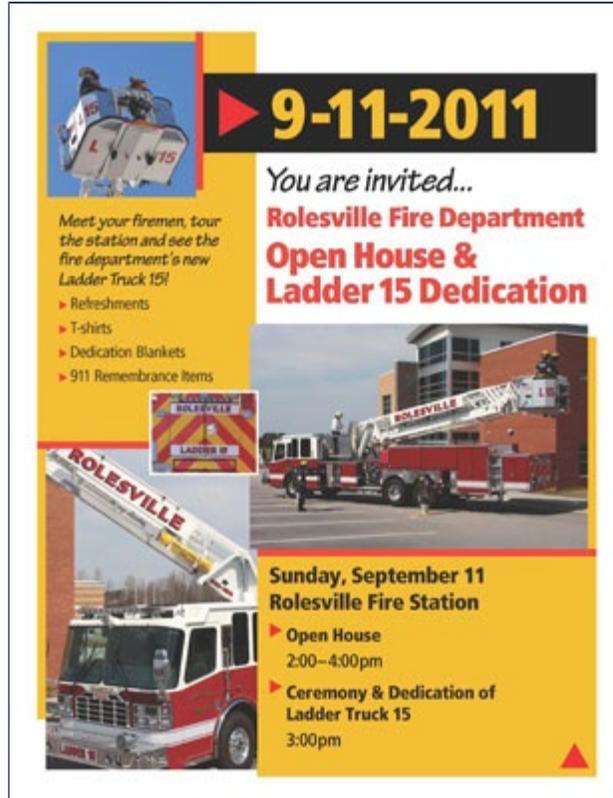
/ [Textile](#)

Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - Rolesville Fire Department « Hurricane Hazel in Ra... » NC EM Tweets
Open House and Ladder Truck Dedication, Sunday, Sept. 11

Rolesville Fire Department Open House and Ladder Truck Dedication, Sunday, Sept. 11

08/25/11 47 W, 1 I - + 6 - 5

Location is the Rolesville Fire Department, [104 East Young Street](#), Rolesville, NC. Times are 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for open house, and 3:00 p.m. for the dedication of Ladder 15. Click to view this PDF flier:



I believe you meant **Sunday**

BW - 08/25/11 - 19:45

Yeah, that's right. Thanks, B.

Legeros - 08/25/11 - 21:38

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

NC EM Tweets

08/25/11 165 W - + 6 - 3

From the Facebook page of [North Carolina Emergency Management](#), here's a sampling of their Twitter messages of the last 24 hours:

- Swift water rescue teams are on standby and available to assist if needed. 16 min. ago.
- Gov. Perdue activated 20 members of NC National Guard today. About 160 more come on duty Friday and 2,300 are on standby. 37 min. ago
- RT @ncdot: Hurricane evac route map: <http://ht.ly/6cNrQ>. 4 hours ago
- NCDOT Incident Mgt Asst Patrols (IMAP) have arrived in Dare/Currituck & will patrol US 158, US 64 during evacuations to keep traffic flowing. 5 hours ago.
- Dare County orders mandatory evacuation of all residents beginning 8 a.m. Friday. Info on shelters at <http://ow.ly/6cGmD>. 6 hours ago.
- RT @ncdot: Ferry Update: Remaining routes will continue to operate until captains and operations managers deem it unsafe. 7 hours ago.
- RT @currituckgov: Currituck County Government recommends that all current vacationers depart no later than Fri. Aug. 26, ahead of #Hurricane #Irene. 9 hours ago.

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.

Evening News, August 25, 2011

08/25/11 309 W - + 7 - 4

Good evening Raleigh. Everyone's eye is on the eye. Sunday we'll say goodnight Irene. Local conditions are looking wet 'n' windy for Saturday. Cameras, radios, and umbrellas will be ready. Of course, we're still a couple days away. Big storms can change course and some times at the last minute.

- [Specialized Rescue Teams Ready for Irene's Flooding](#) - WRAL story about the state's swift-water rescue teams, who are on alert for Hurricane Irene. Includes footage of Apex's team, which was practicing today on Harris Lake. They have some 25 swift-water techs and 20 divers.
- [Remembering Sacrifices of 9/11](#) - *Midtown Raleigh News* story of the Wake Forest Tunnels to Towers Run. This is the third year for the event, and first to be held in cities other than New York and Wake Forest.
- [Band's CD Honors Those Who Serve](#) - *Clayton News-Star* story about CPD officer Joe Brady, his involvement with forming the Wake & District pipes and drum band, and the release of their first CD, "For Our Fallen." The guy also knows his movie quotes, particularly those featuring long car chases in his sweet home Chicago.
- [Civilian Communications After the Earthquake](#) - That's my headline for Firegeezzer Mike Ward's thoughts and linked articles about the deluge of Intranet and cellular phone traffic that followed this week's earthquake. And it *immediately* followed same, with tweets and phone calls and Facebook updates happening scant seconds after people stopped shaking. What's the implication for larger-scale or more-damaging events? Yikes, is the implication.
- [Code 3 Collectibles Ceases Production](#) - This one's from a week ago. They've halted production, and will sell remaining inventory. Their last release was a new tooling of a Seagrave Maurader Aerialscope lettered for FDNY Ladder 46. It's sold out through them, but available from dealers. Got mine at [Past-Time Hobbies](#).

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'?

Last Week's Waterspout

08/26/11 61 W, 1 I - + 7 - 7

Here's an extreme weather event from last week, a waterspout seen offshore at Carolina Beach. That's a tornado over water, and that moved onto land in the 1800 block of Canal Drive. [As this WRAL story](#) reported, waterspouts were seen offshore in both New Hanover and Brunswick counties. Do hurricanes sprout 'spouts? Guess we'll find out.



WRAL 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'?

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

Dave's Fire Videos / Boots 'n' Armchairs

08/26/11 218 W - + 7 - 6

Dave Statter has lately been posting some good fire videos on his blog, [Statter911](#). Good in terms of fodder for discussion, for sure. The latest crop has been from the Eastern and Midwestern states: Indiana, Philly, Jersey, Spokane (tough situation on arrival on that one), and Iowa. Readers are entirely blunt in their assessments of the tactics and techniques on display, but they're also quick to praise and reinforce those things that work. There is perhaps a danger of diminishing returns, with regard to the relentless critical observations. Reader Gwoneg says it best in this response to [Early Raw Video: House Fire in Pitman, New Jersey](#):

Wow, no one is good enough, are they?

Armchairs – "Never fight from the outside, always go in."

Boots – " But it went out, right?"

Armchairs – "Well, I guess outside is OK, but you used the wrong appliance."

Boots – "But it went out right?"

Armchairs – "I don't care if it went out, you are still clearly doing it wrong."

I know there are clear examples of poor tactics in some of the videos posted here on Statter , and I am glad for the learning value that those bring, but boy are we nitpicky.

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.

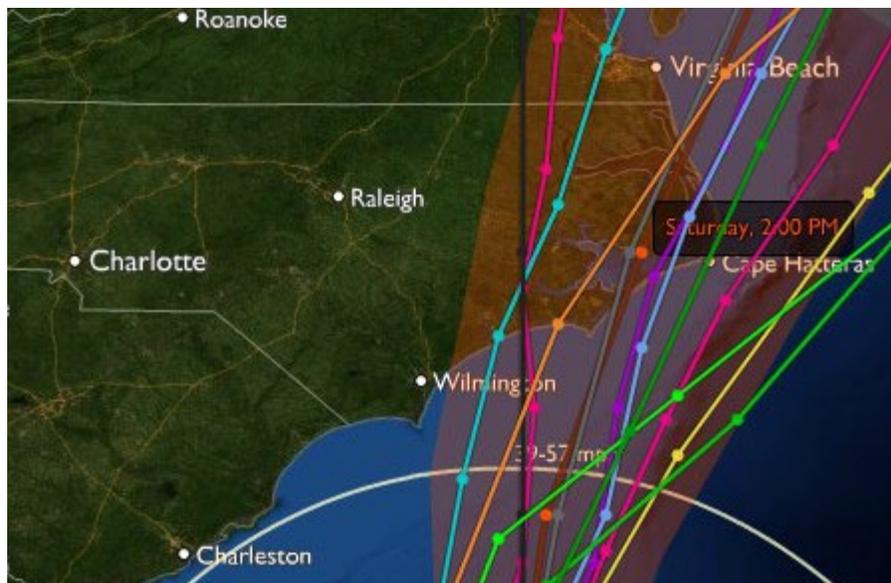
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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.

Weekend Planning, Part 3

08/26/11 16 W, 1 I - + 10 - 6

Spaghetti model graphic courtesy of [Stormpulse](#).



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.

Scenes From Irene

08/27/11 194 W, 10 I - + 7 - 5

Here are some scenes from around the Capitol City, from the last 24 hours. See [more photos of Task Force 8](#). More other photos forthcoming. Click to enlarge:



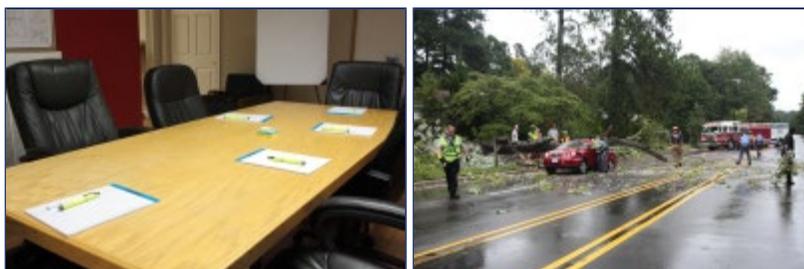
Left: NC USAR Task Force 8 members secure equipment in one of their tractor-drawn trucks. Right: Task Force 8 members are briefed before departing the Keeter Training Center late Friday afternoon.



Left: Task Force 8 heads east on Highway 64, while a crazy guy in a Hawaiian shirt watches from the Wendell Falls Parkway bridge. Right: The North Carolina Emergency Operations Center started their Saturday morning operational period with a 7:00 a.m. briefing.



Left: The briefing opened with a meteorology report. Right: One of the many "big boards" at the EOC, located at 116 W. Jones Street.



Left: Space and supplies are ready at Raleigh Fire Station 8, for

operational command needs. Right: Crews clear a tree that struck a vehicle on Wade Avenue just east of Gorman Street.



Left: Firefighter operates chainsaw provided by EMS Truck 1, which also responded. Right: Firefighter watches electrical arcing on White Oak Road. Units secured the roadway, and awaited the arrival of utility workers. Mike Legeros photographs.

Thanks for braving the elements Lee and Mike.

Tex - 08/27/11 - 16:30

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

Storm Stuff

08/27/11 251 W - + 7 - 8

Skimming the news and social media web sites, here are some sundry details about Hurricane Irene's passage through North Carolina. Readers are welcome to contribute.

Data

- Landfall near Cape Lookout at 7:47 a.m., Saturday, August 27.
- Wind gust of 115 mph recorded at Cedar Island ferry terminal.
- Wind gusts as high as 64 mph recorded as far inland as Wayne County.
- Three possible tornadoes in Carolina Beach, Beaufort County, and Tyrrell County.
- Evacuation orders issued in 18 counties.
- Eighty shelters opened in 29 counties.
- As many as 8,000 people sheltered in American Red Cross shelters in 16 counties.
- Power outages affecting 350,000-450,000 people, from central Piedmont to coast.

Deaths and Injuries

- Nashville man killed, struck by tree while outdoors.
- New Hanover County man missing, entered Cape Fear River.
- Pitt County man killed, when car struck a tree. Unknown if storm related.

Damage and Closures

- Roof collapse, small section, at Berkley Mall in Goldsboro.
- Piers sheared in Atlantic Beach and Emerald Isle.
- Levy breached in Swan Quarter.
- Heavy flooding in New Bern.
- Waterwater treatment plant breaches in New Hanover and Tyrrell Counties.
- Possible shoreline breach or new inlet created on Hatteras Island, between Hatteras and Frisco.
- Major road closures included Highway 64 west in Columbia, Highway 264 in Belhaven, and Highway 12 near Rodanthe.

Emergency Response

- NC USAR Task Force 8 (Raleigh/Cary/Durham/Chapel Hill) still staged in Rocky Mount.
- NC USAR Task Forces from Greensboro (TF6) and Charlotte (TF3) also headed to Rocky Mount.
- NC USAR Task Force from Fayetteville/Lumberton (TF9) deployed to New Bern.

Task Force 8 headed to Hyde County tonight...

REDS from Garner gone to Williamston...

Twin Rivers Mall in New Bern, via WRAL reader photo:



Legeros - 08/27/11 - 22:20

And the WRAL reader photo of the Goldsboro mall roof collapse:



Legeros - 08/27/11 - 22:22

NCTF4 is in Tyrell County.

Bob P. - 08/27/11 - 23:33

Add an exclamation point at the end of a picture URL, to include here.

WRAL reader photo of the Weldon Fire Department's roof, in Halifax County:



Legeros - 08/27/11 - 23:34

funny thing about news coverage on FD teams headed to the coast! Both local stations did stories on Charlotte and Apex but nothing on TF 8!

Jason Lane - 08/28/11 - 17:19

I agree Jason, thought the same thing...from what I have been told (from TF8 personnel that were there) is that they were sent as a structural collapse component and other USAR's were sent as Swiftwater components and with the flooding the SWR teams were used more than the SCT team(s). Guess makes for better stories!?!?

Former TF8 - 08/29/11 - 16:04

News 14 carolina did a story on Charlotte fire usar and swift water team gearing up to head east, Wral did a story and road Apex Fire swift water boat about them being one of several teams preparing to head east. But no news station mentioned TF 8 going full assignment usar and swift water! I wonder if it's one of those didn't know kind of things!

Jason Lane - 08/29/11 - 20:10

The media that were riding on the Apex boat just called the station and asked what we were doing to get ready for storm. We were testing a boat that we got back the day earlier from the shop. They wanted to do a story and Chief said come on.

Scooter - 08/29/11 - 22:36

Thanks Scooter! where did ya'll end up going? Also some of our HEART/HELO boys were staged with SHP bird!

Jason Lane - 08/29/11 - 23:52

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Hurricane Irene Photos and Photo Galleries

08/28/11 196 W - + 6 - 5

For your Sunday morning, here are some images and image galleries from the Hurricane. There's some superb photojournalism that's taking place. Check out the *N&O*, AP, and Getty images displayed by the *News & Observer* and *New York Times*. There are also reader and viewer photos by the dozen. The local-shot shots from New York City are particularly amusing. No shortage of humor there, as the big storm approaches. What photo gallery are you viewing, that you would recommend? And are there any galleries out there of responder photos, both shots of them and by them? Probably not. Feel free to send, and we'll see about sharing here. As for Mr. Blogger's photos, they are minimal: [Task Force 8 preparing and leaving](#), [Irene's effects around Raleigh](#), and the NC EOC in action Saturday morning (forthcoming).

Local News

- [News 14 viewer photos](#)
- [WRAL catalog of galleries](#)
- [WTVD viewer photos](#)

Regional News

- [WAVY gallery of Irene in Virginia](#) (143)
- [Wilmington *Star-News* reader photos](#)
- [WITN viewer photos from Eastern NC](#)

News & Observer

- [Hurricane Heads up the East Coast](#) (80)
- [Hurricane Irene Lashes NC Coast](#) (143)

New York Times

- [Irene Makes Landfall](#) (17)
- [Reader's Photos](#) (130+)
- [Reporter's Notebook](#) (17)

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.

Fire Station Damage From Hurricane Irene

08/28/11 53 W, 2 I - + 10 - 6

From reader photos submitted to WRAL, here's the day room of the Collington Fire Department in Dare County. Photo from Susan:



WRAL photo

Also submitted as a viewer photo to WRAL, here's the roof of the Weldon Fire Department in Halifax County:



WRAL photo

Not sure about the Weldon fire station damage. Listening to the WRAL noon report, that might be roofing material from a nearby church, that struck the fire station.

Legeros - 08/28/11 - 14:14

Job Security?

08/28/11 62 W, 1 I - + 6 - 4

From a reader, this picture appeared on the *Rocky Mount Telegram* web site, in [this slideshow of storm photos](#). The caption: "U.S. Postal Service mail carrier Reinaldo Holmes uses a tree branch to remove a utility wire from his vehicle Saturday while delivering mail on Lafayette Avenue during Hurricane Irene."



Rocky Mount Telegram/Alan Campbell 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'?

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

Mystery Cemetery

08/28/11 26 W, 1 I - + 6 - 8

No fair peeking into genealogy records to solve this one. Clues forthcoming, if it proves a stumper.



Not takers? Let's pull the camera back a bit...

Click Refresh.

Legeros - 08/31/11 - 22:00

Well we do know our areas, but we don't joyride the cemeteries (I Hope!!) and the occupants never call 911. I do however have confidence that someone in this crowd will figure it out.

Six Feet Under - 08/31/11 - 22:28

Unless there's a zombie attack, of course. Then such locations may become strategic intelligence!

Legeros - 08/31/11 - 22:29

Off South Saunders heading towards downtown right near Bob's Army surplus.....maybe?????????

GraveDigger - 09/01/11 - 23:03

That's what I was thinking too.

Zack A - 09/02/11 - 00:37

Somewhere off of Trinity Rd.

Marcus - 09/02/11 - 00:41

Let's shift the camera some and see if that helps.

Click Refresh.

Legeros - 09/02/11 - 08:26

It's near Garner, I can see the TV towers in the background, likely the church cemetery at the corner of East Garner and Rock Quarry Roads. I think it's Mount Moriah Church – we used to have some BAD wrecks at that intersection years ago.

Jason Thompson ([Email](#)) - 09/03/11 - 00:29

You have correctly spotted two towers in the picture. The cemetery is neither located near Garner, nor in eastern Wake County.

Legeros - 09/03/11 - 06:16

The cemetery off Fayetteville St over behind KTC past the school but before you get to Prospect. What is it like Mt.Hope cemetery?

Mike - 09/03/11 - 12:36

But where are two towers over there, Mike? Next clue, outside the Beltline.

Legeros - 09/03/11 - 12:45

Towers are at the Highway Patrol complex on Garner Rd if the picture is in fact from Mt Hope

Marcus - 09/04/11 - 00:50

The cemetery is not Mt. Hope. Next clue, these plots are located within a mile of a fire station.

Legeros - 09/04/11 - 09:48

Cemetery near Macedonia Church right off of Tryon Rd?

Marcus - 09/05/11 - 20:04

Question at a fire station this morning: "Where is that cemetery located? Nobody ever guessed." Legeros answers, "if I say that planes fly nearby, does that give it away."

Legeros - 09/17/11 - 10:22

Pleasant Grove Cemetery between Parkwood Station 3 and RDU?

Sparky ([Email](#)) - 09/18/11 - 12:17

Cemetery on ACC Blvd near Walmart?

David Price - 09/18/11 - 21:32

Sparky's getting warmer, but David's getting colder...

Legeros - 09/18/11 - 21:43

Are the towers located at E. Chatham and SE Maynard in Cary?

Sparky - 09/19/11 - 22:58

Not in Cary. Misread Sparky's first guess. Was thinking of another Station 3. So David's maybe warmer.

Legeros - 09/19/11 - 23:11

Cemetery Drive RDU

Dead End Drive - 09/20/11 - 17:01

You got it.

Legeros - 09/20/11 - 18:10

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Evening News, August 28, 2011

08/28/11 247 W - + 9 - 5

Sundry stories to end our Sunday, most are storm-related. Plus one incendiary device, lobbed last week into the fire news reporting from Atlanta...

- [North Carolina USAR Task Force 8 Deploys](#) - That's our headline for a City of Raleigh press release, about the 70-member Type I team that left Raleigh for Rocky Mount on Friday. Add Wake County EMS to list of member agencies cited, in addition to fire departments from Raleigh, Cary, Chapel Hill, and Durham.
- [Durham Firefighters Head East to Help Hurricane Victims](#) - Durham *Herald-Sun* article also about the deployment of Task Force 8. Ten Durham firefighters were among the members who departed Raleigh on Friday, with an 11th member arriving Saturday.
- [Rescue Team Takes Blackhawk For Assistance](#) - *Salisbury Post* article about NCHART team of Charlotte firefighters, that departed for eastern North Carolina on Saturday. Task Force 3, also from the Charlotte Fire Department, has also been deployed.
- [Firefighters Hope Irene Puts Dent in Swamp Blaze](#) - *Virginia-Pilot* article about wildlife officials and their hopes that the hurricane helps extinguish the 6,000-acre blaze that's been burning for weeks in the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.
- [Swedish Expert Outlines 'Stupid' U.S. Practices](#) - Provocative headline from Firehouse.com, about their recap of fire service criticism from Dr. Sefan Svenson at last week's Fire-Rescue International conference and expo in Atlanta. Handful of reader comments thus far. See also this [Firehouse.com forums thread](#), though it's already derailed a bit.

Mike, we got alot of the assets in our county working... Wayne Co Sheriff and Mar Mac Swiftwater teams have made multiple successful rescues in Pamlico Co. TF-9 has deployed here, NCEM Western Branch IMT is also here operating with us. Check the news and observer tomorrow... Had their media folks with us all day today. Had many areas with Katrina type damage.

Chris Murray - 08/29/11 - 00:13

Thanks Chris. Here's that story, <http://www.newsobserver.com/2011/08/29/1..>

Legeros - 08/29/11 - 08:25

Mike,

I wouldn't mind seeing a thread about the Swedish fire professor. I read it and it looks like it could open a good discussion without a lot of bashing or trash talking

Scooter - 08/29/11 - 20:15

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Morning News - August 24, 2011

08/29/11 223 W, 1 I - + 6 - 8

Good morning Raleigh. Couple more stories about the storm, as related to emergency responders and notable incidents. Google searching "North Carolina firefighters Irene" to find some of these. Forward stories as found, please.

- [Salisbury Firefighters Lend Hand After Hurricane Irene](#) - *Salisbury Post* story about deployment of crews and engines from Salisbury, Concord, Statesville, Shelby and Gastonia. They were initially staged at a school in Swan Quarter in Hyde. They will provide relief for local firefighters. Bet that's a heck of a statewide run card!
- [Couple Swims to Safety to Escape Rodanthe House Fire](#) - WRAL story about two people that escaped the burning of their 6,000 square-foot home Saturday night.
- [Irene Leaves it Mark on Weldon Church, Fire Station](#) - WRAL story about same. The station was damaged by the falling roof of the church. A second fire station in Weldon was also damaged.
- [Rescuers, Clean-Up Crews go to Work in Pamlico](#) - *News & Observer* story mentioned in prior posting. Wayne County swift water rescue team rescued 26 residents Saturday and three Sunday.
- [Photo tour of the NC EOC](#) - Photos posted this morning of Mr. Blogger's Saturday morning visit to the North Carolina Emergency Operations Center. Dedicated blog posting forthcoming, telling more about the EOC.



The Star from Shelby, also reporting on deployments of engines and crews to the east, <http://www.shelbystar.com/news/help-5799..>

Gastonia FD and Shelby FD reached Raleigh, before being turned around. Sufficient resources at this time. More may be needed and requested again by the end of the week.

Legeros - 08/29/11 - 19:02

Clean Underwear

08/29/11 118 W - + 9 - 7

We're a couple days into the aftermath of Hurricane Irene. The busiest crews are getting some relief. The double- or even triple-shifters have resumed normal schedules. Some deployments are being deactivated. Other resources are being moved around. Open question for everyone whose been working long hours over the last few days. What's that one thing that you're glad you brought along, that you stowed in your pack, and that you brought to the station? Or, alternately, what's that one thing that you wish you had, the one thing you've been dying to have? And don't say access to a computer to read this blog. We *know* that ain't true! Thanks for your dedication and hard work...

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.

Raleigh Police Truck

08/30/11 35 W, 1 I - + 10 - 13

Saw this this weekend. The officer driving said it pulls their horse trailer. And that the police department has exactly one such truck. Nice looking.



Nice truck. they should get more.

charlie - 08/30/11 - 08:22

How does RPD justify custom paint jobs for all their street vehicles, but RFD cannot? RFD doesn't have any staff/utility vehicles painted/striped in the same way the rigs are. (Think LAFD and NYFD).

Almost all law enforcement agencies have gone to a solid color with a striping package, but not RPD. Any idea how much a custom paint job on a Crown Vic costs? Is anyone really a "fan" of that blue?

Just sayin....

harkey - 08/30/11 - 09:41

I like the custom paint themes that RPD uses. To me, it is more traditional and there is no confusion as which PD it is. Much of the PDs in the county are so similar, it is hard to tell which is which until you get right up on the vehicle.

BC - 08/30/11 - 17:04

BC I agree i like the tradition of RPD, so many others across the nation still do the ole black and white, blue and white! NYPD, LAPD just to name big dept. But lets not forget SHP even though changed colors top and bottom might buy it solid but strip it up to carry that look! It might not be a custom paint job it!RFD I am sure got a deal on the pick ups at KTC!

Jason Lane - 08/30/11 - 22:30

And for those that didn't know. That is RPD blue and they have it copyrighted for a lack of a better word. It is their color and others must ask permission to use it.

Mike - 08/30/11 - 23:38

If RPD has it copyrighted, they must have given Big City towing permission cause they have the same color and paint scheme on their tow truck. The only thing that truck is missing is the RPD badge on the side.

10-51 - 08/30/11 - 23:53

Any talk about the next fleet vehicle for RPD? The Ford Crown Victoria is in its last production year.

PW - 08/31/11 - 18:56

Chevy has come out with a new Caprice. That is an option

Marcus - 09/01/11 - 02:05

Let me re-phrase, I could see that as an option. Not saying it is actually an option for them.

Marcus - 09/01/11 - 02:07

Ford is offering a "Police Interceptor" next year in both a SUV and sedan. It is supposed to have " special Police Drivetrain, Police suspension, Efficient but powerful motor and Level III Balastic proof doors.

Galax,VA - 09/01/11 - 18:13

The department doesn't know yet what the next vehicle will be. I believe they're getting a few of each for testing purposes, but they just bought a bunch of Crown Vics to keep them going for a few more years, and put off the decision as long as possible. Does anyone know more about "copyrighting" the color scheme? I've never heard such a thing...

rfburns - 09/09/11 - 21:57

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.

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.

Progress Energy Mobile Sleep Station

08/30/11 52 W, 1 I - + 8 - 7

From [this New Bern Sun Journal story](#), this mobile sleep station can house 400 Progress Energy workers. It's been set-up beside Moore's BBQ on Highway 17 in New Bern. Looks climate controlled, but it might feel a bit claustrophobic. Unless you're ex-Navy, perhaps!



Bryon Holland/Sun Journal photo

Or unless you're a carnie. Those guys do that everywhere, and probably smell just as bad after a day at the fair.

Duda ([Email](#)) - 08/30/11 - 09:09

A lot of their crowd from Florida were put up in hotels in Morehead City, as obvious by the lack of available rooms Tuesday night with hardly any tourists in town!

shevais - 09/01/11 - 14:00

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'?

Day After Down East

08/30/11 105 W, 1 I - + 11 - 6

Posted in [this Carteret County News-Times story](#), here's a commercial fishing vessel sitting on the side of Shell Road in Atlantic on Sunday. Said thoroughfare is about 1000 feet from the shore, [says Google Maps](#). Did we mean Atlantic Beach? Nope, that's the community of Atlantic, an unincorporated community in Carteret County along the Core Sound. What's there? [Notes this Wikipedia page](#), Atlantic was the location of the first public high school in the county. It was incorporated from 1905 to 1920. There's a satellite airfield there, operated by the Marine Corps. And they have a fire department.



Dylan Ray/News Times 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'?

North Carolina Emergency Operations Center

08/30/11 1201 W, 5 I - + 9 - 15

[See photos from Saturday](#)

Let's take a tour of the North Carolina Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which is located in the basement of the Administration Building at 116 W. Jones Street. That building was built in 1967, but the EOC might be older. We'll research that one. (It probably originated during the time of Civil Defense infrastructure expansion during the Cold War. We'll research that one. (Frank Blazich's [North Carolina Civil Defense History](#) would be a good place to start. As for the site of the Administration Building, the land was privately owned until 1963, say county real estate records.)

What is an EOC, you ask? Here's the [Wikipedia](#) definition, paraphrased: a central command and control facility responsible for carrying out emergency preparedness/management functions at a strategic level, and ensuring the continuity of operation. An EOC is responsible for the strategic overview/big picture of the emergency, and does not normally directly control field assets. It makes operational decisions and leaves tactical decisions to lower commands.



The physical space of the center is a series of connected rooms on a single floor underneath the Administration Building. Also on the floor is the state's 24 Hour Operations Center. That facility is staffed at all times, has an additional level of access control, and operates as the communications center for the EOC. It's also where "regular" emergency requests for state resources are received throughout the year, such as a request to activate a USAR task force.

The EOC is operated by the Emergency Management (EM) Division of the [North Carolina Department of Crime Control & Public Safety](#). During major emergencies, the EM division becomes the support staff for the State Emergency Response Team (SERT). The response team is comprised of representatives from various agencies and organizations who provide services and support during emergencies.



When activated, EOC staffing includes EM staff, SERT members, select state department heads, and the Governor and/or her staff. During the center's activation for Hurricane Irene, the roll call included representatives from:

- Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE)
- American Red Cross
- Civil Air Patrol
- Cooperative Extension
- Critical Incident Stress Management Association
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Department of Crime Control & Public Safety
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 - Air Quality
 - Dam Safety
 - Forest Resources
 - Water Quality
 - Wildlife
 - Etc.
- Department of Health and Human Services
 - Epidemiology
 - Mental Health
 - Social Services
 - Etc.
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Division of Air Quality
- Division of Forest Resources
- Emergency Management Division
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Governor's Office
- National Guard (NCNG)
- North Carolina Baptist Men
- Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS)
- Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM)
- The Salvation Army
- State Bureau of Investigation (SBI)
- State Highway Patrol (SHP)
- State Medical Assistance Teams (SMAT)
- United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- United States Postal Service (USPS)
- Utility companies

The EOC is activated for major emergencies, such as hurricanes. It can also be activated in a limited capacity for smaller-scale events, such as snow storms. The EOC is also activated for training purposes. One full-scale activation exercise is conducted per year. Those alternate between a nuclear accident and a non-nuclear accident. For the latter, conducted every other year, the non-nuclear accidents alternate between a hurricane and a non-hurricane (terrorism, public health, etc.)

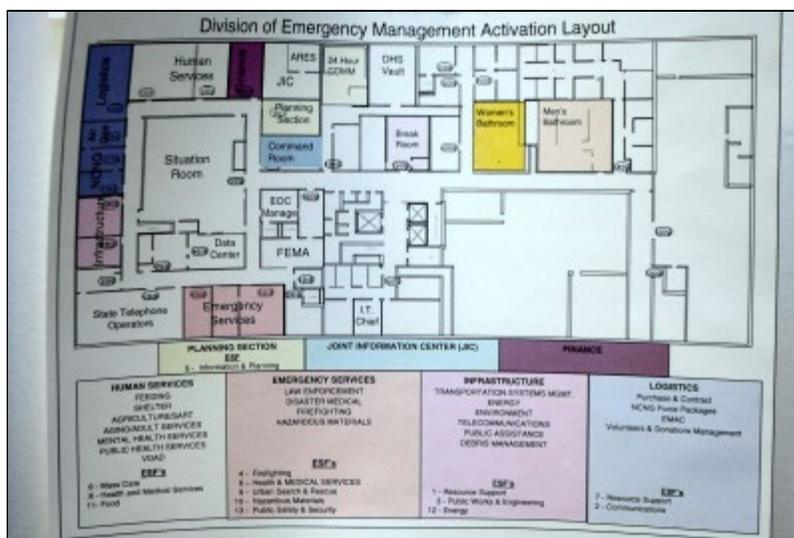
The EOC was activated in preparation for Hurricane Irene on Thursday, August 25, at 7:00 a.m. The operational periods were 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and the center was fully staffed during those times. (There are no sleeping rooms or living quarters in the EOC, however. Cat naps can be caught in chairs or cots, as needed.)



Each operational period begins with a briefing, which is conducted in the Situation Room, shown above. That's the "big room" and, in the early days, it was the only room. Explains EOC Manager Darlene Johnson—who conducted our fine tour on Saturday morning—it was a noisy, crowded experience. And because everyone smoked, she recalls, you couldn't see the front of the room from the back of the room.

The Saturday morning briefing included an extensive meteorology report, a review of incident objectives (that day, they were phasing from preparation to response), a review of landfall conditions, a safety reminder (cease field operations when winds are greater than 50 mph, do not drive vehicles through standing water, etc.), reports from EOC branch heads (Operations, Recovery, Logistics, Public Information, Geospatial and Technology Management), and an update from the SERT leader.

After the briefing, the Situation Room was largely emptied as folks headed to the center's smaller rooms, each designated for specific branches of operation: Command and Control, Planning, Communication, Logistics, etc. [Here's a photo of a map](#) of the EOC, showing the various rooms:



The EOC maintained communication with each county's emergency manager, with 100 managers for the state's 100 counties. They also were in close contact with the state EOCs in Virginia and South Carolina. Many of the evacuees on the northern Outer Banks, for example, would evacuate to Virginia, their home state.

There are also Branch Offices activated as Regional Coordination Centers during emergencies. The Eastern Branch Office (EBO), for example, is in Kinston and located adjacent to the Global TransPark Training Center on Highway 58. It coordinates with its 33 counties, and their local Emergency Management directors on deploying resources and responders from the state. (How many total NC EM facilities are present statewide? We'll look into that.)



How many people were staffing the EOC? On their first day of operation, they fed 200 people for lunch. (That meal is a catered box lunch. The day's second meal is also catered, but from a restaurant and with entrees.) How long is the average EOC activation? Four days, on average. For a hurricane, the timeframe typically translates to a day or two before landfall, the day of landfall, and a day or two after landfall. Read more in the NC EOC Standard Operating Guide, [one of several documents](#) available on the Emergency Management Division web site.

Other interesting things about the EOC:

- There are approximately 154 telephone landlines in the EOC for SERT use, some of which are suspended outside of hurricane season.
- The communications room includes one bonafide Cold War relic, a HAM radio operator's room contained inside an EMP vault. That's to protect the equipment against the type of destructive electromagnetic pulse generated from the explosion of a nuclear bomb.
- The office of the EOC Manager is decorated in a tropical motif and features numerous representations of palm trees. Alas, Mr. Blogger dressed in regular clothes instead of his usual Hawaiian shirt. Next time.
- The EOC is moving this fall to a new location. They'll occupy a portion of the 237,000 square-foot North Carolina National Guard headquarters building that's nearly finished off District Drive in West Raleigh. The building will also house Emergency Management Division and the communication offices for the State Highway Patrol. Can't wait to pay a visit!

[See photos from Saturday.](#)

As a PIO, I find this post extremely interesting. Good info here! Thanks for sharing.

jcollins - 08/31/11 - 12:30

I have a copy of the dedication program for this building if desired. It did indeed open in 1967. Prior to this, the state EOC operated out of the basement of the General Assembly building (notably during the Cuban Missile Crisis) and at the headquarters of the NCCD at the intersection of Dale and Jefferson in the downtown Raleigh area.

Frank Blazich, Jr. ([Web Site](#)) - 09/02/11 - 20:18

Frank, please pass along a copy of the program at your convenience. Also, please tell about the EOC's origins and timeframes at both prior locations, if you are inclined. Looks like residential buildings, plus a recent office building at Dale and Jefferson. Is the original NCCD headquarters structure gone?

Legeros - 09/03/11 - 06:21

I'll dig it out of my files but will pass it along. The building at Jefferson and Dale IS the old NCCD building. The old shelter there unfortunately was filled in, although when I have no idea: [http://nccdhistory.blogspot.com/2009/05/.](http://nccdhistory.blogspot.com/2009/05/)

In terms of when an EOC was first used for the state in an emergency, I am not entirely sure off the top of my head. The General Assembly building was still being finished when the NCCD used the basement of it as the EOC during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Until 1967, it appears that the building at Jefferson and Dale remained the EOC. Until I get all my data organized (40GBs plus) this is the best I can recall at this time.

Frank Blazich, Jr. ([Web Site](#)) - 09/03/11 - 07:55

Thanks Frank. The real fun of research is making sense of and organizing everything. Of course, that can take longer than the research does!

Legeros - 09/03/11 - 08:08

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.

U.S. Appeals Court Ruling on Videotaping of Police

08/31/11 266 W - + 8 - 7

[Statter911 yesterday posted this report](#) on a U.S. Court of Appeals in Boston that issued an opinion on the 2007 arrest of a citizen who used his cell phone to record arrest activities. Simon Glik was charged with violating state wiretapping laws (audio recording without consent), disturbing the peace, and aiding the escape of a prisoner. The last charge was dismissed, and he was found not guilty of the other two. Glik complained to the police and subsequently filed a civil rights suits, after they refused to investigate. Last week, the court agreed that his rights were violated.

Dave Statter's posting includes links to the entire opinion, a ZDNet article about the case, an ACLU video that includes the video that led to the arrest, and Dave's previous coverage of stories of involving first responders reacting to cameras (and at times engaging in altercations with photographers and videographers). It's good reading and remains a useful and educational perspective. Cameras are everywhere. And public photography is not illegal.

What's the perspective like for the law officer, who's with a suspect or in a situation, who's trying to stay safe and control the outcome, and there's someone with a camera there? And what tactics might they employ, to interface with the camera holder? [This PoliceOne.com column](#) and its reader comments provide an exceptionally interesting perspective. The link is cited in the Statter story's reader comments.

September 4, 2011 update: See also this great Fire Law Blog posting about same, called [The Public's Right to Take Photos at Incident Scenes](#).

thanks for sharing this Blog-100

Joe Brady ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 08/31/11 - 08:35

Joe, there was an interesting debate on the PoliceOne.com comments, about the concept of public servants. What do you think, are police officers public servants? Or are they servants of the law, and not necessarily the same thing?

Legeros - 08/31/11 - 20:04

Updated with a great Fire Law Blog link, with a nice, plain-English review and recap of the ruling: <http://firelawblog.com/2011/09/the-publi..>

Legeros - 09/04/11 - 10:48

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

Apex Rescue Team Weathered Storm to Help Irene Victims

08/31/11 307 W - + 11 - 7

That's the [headline from this WRAL story](#) about the Apex Fire Department's swift-water team, and their role in the response to Hurricane Irene. Nine of their water rescue members-- they have 25 swift-water technicians and 20 divers-- were deployed to the Albemarle Sound area of Tyrrell County on Saturday afternoon. The order to was issued at 12:30 p.m. and they were rolling in 15 minutes. They were there for 48 hours, and enduring the intensity of the storm at the beginning. Battalion Chief Mike Beasley talks about the experience in the 96-second clip. [Read/watch the story.](#)

Readers have observed elsewhere that we haven't seen much local media coverage about the local water rescue and USAR teams and their operations during Irene. Since Yours Truly is neither a Public Office Information nor plays one on television, the best answer might be a collective answer. e.g., what do you think?

Some of the factors are probably obvious. For example, if your department has a standing relationship with one or more local news members, that relationship can be leveraged at times when the department has a story that the news might be interested in. Such relationships might be in the form of the Fire Chief, a PIO, or a member of command staff. What are your experiences?

Of course, we're also thick into the digital era. Everyone has cameras and there's usually someone capable of filming and posting reasonably good-quality video. So write and post your *own* news. Not the same, right? And probably not necessarily sanctioned. Does your department have a YouTube channel, say, and does it produce videos for public consumption *and* education? What, you're laughing now? Again, let's look to you. What would you, as Joe or Jane Responder, like to see as "news" of what you do?

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](#))

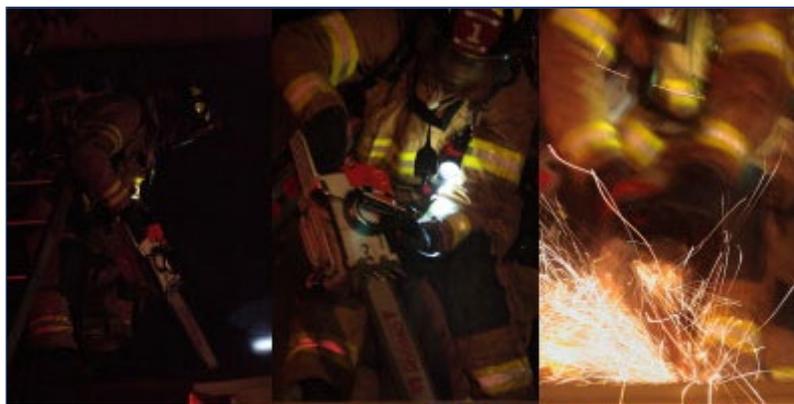
Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

Three Levels of Blur

09/01/11 55 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

Ladder 1 in action at this morning's structure fire on Loft Lane, at one of three working fires for "C" platoon over the last 24 hours. House on Brighton Road, apartment building on Loft Lane, and commercial structure on South Blount Street. [View the Loft Lane photos](#). Click to enlarge:



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.

Baseball Backpacks / Razzing vs. Hazing

09/01/11 84 W, 1 I - + 4 - 4

[This New York Times story yesterday](#)-- about rookie relief pitchers required to wear novelty backpacks-- made me think of last year's discussion we had on razzing versus hazing. Use the search box on the right with the keyword "hazing" and you'll find some of those old posts, such as [results of a survey](#) we conducted, and a [discussion of the subject](#). And apologies in advance, if the *Times* story gives anyone ideas...



Joe Giza/Reuters 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'?

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

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

9/11 Memorial Events, Updated

09/08/11 173 W - + 8 - 2

Here's a list of the fire servie-related 9/11 memorial events planned for Raleigh and Wake County. [Read this Raleigh press release](#) about Friday Proclamation by the Governor, and other observances. And here's a [News & Observer story](#), with a list of more local events.

Friday, September 9

- 2:00 p.m. - 9/11 Proclamation Ceremony at North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Memorial. [Read blog post](#).

Saturday, September 10

- 8:30 a.m. - Wake Forest Tunnels to Towers run starts. [Visit web site](#).

Sunday, September 11

- 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. - Raleigh city ceremony at 515 Parnell Drive. [Read news story](#).
- 9:00 a.m. - Morrisville 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb starts at 1 Copley Drive. [Read blog post](#).
- 9:59 a.m. - Raleigh Fire Stations observe moment of silent. [Read press release](#).

Other events that weekend:

- Saturday, Sep 10
8:00 a.m. - Raleigh's Finest 5K starts at Station 6. [Read blog post](#).
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Raleigh Fire Department Museum open. [Visit web site](#).
- Sunday, Sep 11
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Rolesville Fire Department open house and Ladder 15 dedication. [Read blog post](#).

Updated, added RFD museum hours on Saturday, Sep 10.

Legeros - 09/01/11 - 17:20

Chapel Hill event: Sunday, September 11. 9:45 a.m. Memorial service at the The Fire Place, which is the Chapel Hill Public Safety Education Center at 300 Meadowmont Village Circle, Chapel Hill. The event is hosted by the Chapel Hill Fire Department and the Chapel Hill Firefighters Association.

Legeros - 09/01/11 - 17:51

Some other events around North Carolina. Check your local news sites, and/or Google to find others...

Sunday, September 11

Charlotte 9-11 Memorial Stair Climb at Duke Energy Center. <http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/De..>

Sunday, September 11

Laps for Life at Charlotte Motor Speedway in Concord. <http://firenews.net/index.php/news/news...>

Sunday, September 11

Mooresville Professional Firefighters 9-11 Memorial Stair Climb at Lake Norman High School. <http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/De..>

Sunday, September 11

Salisbury/Rowan County memorial service at the Salisbury-Rowan Firefighters Memorial. <http://www.salisburypost.com/News/090811..>

Legeros - 09/08/11 - 22:23

The Town of Garner is having a 9/11 ceremony as well at 3pm at First Baptist Church of Garner on Sunday

Mike - 09/09/11 - 10:53

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.

Deep Water Fording

09/02/11 138 W - + 8 - 4

This "oops" video is making the rounds. National Guard vehicles attempt deep-water fording in New Jersey. Things turn bad, but not tragic. The video is shown below, along with an example of "correct" fording. Look around the fire blogs and you'll find discussions, [such as this one on Statter911](#). The incident is also a great starting point for talking about risk, safety, and limits.

There's a ongoing meta-topic in many fire service forums about safety. More and more layers of precaution and awareness have been added to the fireground in recent years/decades. As a speaker at the Baltimore Fire Expo noted-- sorry, but forget whom-- the profession is being increasingly influenced and driven by risk management practices. Wear that hat and things look a bit different. Discuss as desired.

Is it really too hard to put the thing in reverse when you realise you can't actually see where you're going?

They obviously had the best of intentions, but common sense should have kicked in much sooner.

Paul - 09/02/11 - 10:24

Whoa, wait a minute, Paul! I bet you the driver had a bachelor's degree, a bunch of certificates, and hardly any experience so common sense is no longer necessary!

Rescue Ranger - 09/02/11 - 22:26

Ahh yes, the tired old cliché of education equals no common sense. Is there some latent resentment? Having read various incident reports over the years I can see that there is a very good reason that educational requirements are strengthening. MS Word's grammar check isn't very good and cannot replace a solid grounding in college English and writing. There's a reason for the "hoops" everyone hated to jump through...

Bob - 09/05/11 - 00:18

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 Sandbags

09/02/11 25 W, 1 I - + 3 - 4

How quickly do you recognize this place? Optionally include any colorful stories associated with the location...



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.

Calabash E-One Pumper Photo

09/03/11 29 W, 1 I - + 4 - 5

Found for sale on eBay, here's a 35mm slide photo of an E-One pumper that serves or served Calabash, North Carolina. Click to enlarge:



This truck is still in-service. Engine 1270 is a 1985 Spartan/E-One 1250/500 that formerly served Arlington,NY.

BFD1151 - 09/05/11 - 22:38

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

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

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

"Samantha" Starts Dispatching Charlotte Fire Calls

09/04/11 178 W, 1 I - + 8 - 3

For your Sunday morning viewing, [here's a WSCO-TV story](#) about the Charlotte Fire Department's new automated dispatching system. The call her Samantha, and the \$1.4 million computer system was recently placed in service. (Observe the magic word "recently" in that sentence. Can mean weeks. Can mean a couple months. Think it's the latter for this system.) The story also talks about time savings with the new system, and they even conducted a time test between live and computer. Alas, some of the language of the story is a little confusing. Can't quite tell if they mean separate calls (incidents) when they say separate callers (for the same or different incidents). The Charlotte Fire Department has its own dispatchers. [Here's the sparse web site](#) for their Communications division. Maybe readers can tell more about their operations, and how they work. (And they may have already. Seems like reader comments have covered that topic a couple years ago. Time to search through our back issues...)



Samantha cant touch my skills. Besides, my voice is sexier.

Locution - 09/05/11 - 11:23

Yeah but your voice is ebonic.

Samantha pronounces her words much more clear and concise.

Buckwheat - 09/08/11 - 17:55

We need side-by-side examples. Anyone got audio files for both handy?

Legeros - 09/08/11 - 18:46

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Twenty Years After the Hamlet Processing Plant Fire

09/04/11 330 W - + 5 - 5

Yesterday was the twentieth anniversary of [North Carolina's deadliest fire](#) (and deadliest industrial accident), when 25 people were killed on September 3, 1991, in a chicken processing plant fire in Hamlet. [Read Wikipedia article](#). Here are some of the stories and editorials remembering the event. What others are you reading this day before, well, Labor Day? And has anyone ever written a history from the responder's perspective, over the years? Wonder what the run card looked like, for fire and EMS? Anyway, for your Sunday reading:

- [Imperial Foods - 20 years after the fire](#) - Richmond County *Daily Journal* retrospective. The 11-year old plant, they recall, had never been inspected by the state. The owner was charged with 25 counts of involuntary manslaughter. He was sentenced to 19 years and 11 months. Doors in the plant had been locked. The fire erupted after a hydraulic line was punctured, causing an explosion. In addition to the fatalities, 54 people were injured, and 49 children were left orphans, notes the paper.
- [Hamlet fire defines and divides a town](#) - *News & Observer* story about the fire and its impact on the town. It also notes a historical perspective of disasters great and small that have befalling the hamlet, such as the 1906 train accident just outside of town that killed 29 people. [Second-deadliest in state's history](#). See also this [archival posting of N&O stories](#).
- [Safety push that followed fatal Hamlet fire wanes](#) - *Charlotte Observer* story about the fire, how it impacted the state's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and a critical examining of that agency's efforts today.
- [Have we forgotten the Hamlet fire?](#) - *News & Observer* editorial asking if memories are fading and risks are growing in North Carolina's workplaces.
- [Twenty years later, safer workplaces Hamlet's legacy](#) - *Daily Advance* (Elizabeth City) editorial about legislative effects of the fire.

The N & O posted a photo with that story. They were highlighting the fact that the employees tried to kick the door down to escape the fire. Unfortunately for them and the first thing that I noticed and asked the guys at the kitchen table when reading this article is what did they notice about this door was that it was an inward opening door with some added slide locks on the door. A nice short 5 minute discussion and training moment around the table.

Mike - 09/04/11 - 14:54

One of the biggest impacts from Hamlet was a mandatory fire inspection schedule. Before, there was no state requirement that specified how often buildings have a periodic fire inspection. With this new requirement, many fire departments were forced to hire additional fire inspectors. Being one of those hired, we inspected businesses never inspected before. Some jurisdictions still struggle to meet the required schedule.

Chris - 09/05/11 - 09:00

This event is something I am considering researching and writing a full-length, academic-style history on. As much as people like to say "never forget," sadly, the vast majority of people have forgotten. Hopefully another accident of this scale will not take place in NC, or anywhere for that matter, although this is woefully optimistic thinking on my part.

Frank Blazich ([Web Site](#)) - 09/07/11 - 10:27

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

Remember personal info?
Yes

Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau Vehicles

09/04/11 68 W, 5 I - + 8 - 4

Reporting from the road. Spotted these in Ames, Iowa, where the state's [Fire Service Training Bureau](#) is based. And Iowa State University. That confined-space training trailer is interesting. Wonder if it's designed to simulate silo rescue situations, with people trapped in grain or corn or such? They have such incidents in these parts. Click to enlarge:



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

1957 International Harvester Tailgating Truck

09/04/11 125 W, 1 I - + 8 - 6

Saw this today on the campus of Iowa State University in Ames, one of a few vehicles still clearing the scene of last night's tailgating activities at Jack Trice Stadium. (Interesting factoid about the Ames Fire Department. Their original Station 2 was located in the basement of the college's former football arena. Then, a couple years later, a section of the stadium collapsed on the fire station! [Read about that.](#)) As for the pictured apparatus, the 1957 International R185 pumper, 1000 GPM, was purchased in open-cab condition from its last-serving fire department. (Didn't catch the name, but the owner mentioned it also served as a forestry service unit.) Here's an [Iowa State Daily article](#) about the truck. Click to enlarge:



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'?

Joliet Fire Station

09/06/11 53 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

Red really adds something to the appearance of a fire station, doesn't it? Still reporting from the road, and commencing explorations of old engine houses in Chicago and Milwaukee. Regular blogging and photo posting to resume in a couple more days. Please contain your enthusiasm. Click to enlarge:



Awesome station! Love the doors. Can't wait to see more photos from your recent travels to Chicago & Milwaukee.

-Trevor

Trevor James (Email) (Web Site) - 09/06/11 - 12:13

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

Morning News, September 6

09/06/11 202 W, 1 I - + 4 - 4

Sounds like soggy times in the central Piedmont from the remnants of tropical storm Lee. Guess it's just our year for extreme local weather. Here are a couple news stories that have caught my eye, while keeping tabs on things on the road:

- [Media strive to cover 9/11 without seeming to exploit a tragedy](#) - Interesting *New York Times* story about considerations for covering the coming anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001. Feelings about feelings. Tough place for anyone planning remembrances or representations of that fateful day, media-based or otherwise.
- [Woman charged with driving drunk on Cary railroad](#) - WRAL story that's the second of the weekend's unusual driving incidents, along with a car that struck people and a building at Cameron Village on Sunday afternoon. Numerous stories on this one, including this report and perspective from the NCSU [Technician](#).
- [Yesterday's house fire on Kentwell Place](#) - WRAL has posted a pair of reader-submitted photos from yesterday's working fire, including a shot of Engine 27 arriving at the fully-involved garage fire, as well as this second shot, early into the suppression:



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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Fire Dept. Use Only

09/07/11 58 W, 1 I - + 6 - 2

Seen on the streets of Milwaukee. Guess it prevents Public Works or other agencies from tapping? Saw these here and there, maybe a half-dozen during a day of exploring. That would be an interesting posting or photo story. Comparing hydrants of major cities.



My guess would be to deter people from filling their pools on the public dime.

PW - 09/07/11 - 11:23

Or perhaps not an appropriate hydrant for use by water meters, for whatever reason.

JG - 09/07/11 - 13:10

Is that some type of lock-out device on the operating nut? It appears to be smooth... Maybe an anti-theft device for a hydrant?

Bob P. - 09/07/11 - 18:04

Some public works departments would like to put NOT FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT USE on some of the hydrants on the west side of the county.

Spanky - 09/07/11 - 22:00

Bob go about a quarter of the way down the page...

<http://www.mcgard.com/AssetSecurityReven..>

B-Mac - 09/08/11 - 00:04

Saw this type of hydrant today in Chicago. Guess it also uses a special type of socket wrench to open:



Legeros - 09/08/11 - 01:14

Hydrant collars such as the one shown in the photo serve not only to deter illegal operations, but help to prevent someone sawing off the stem in order to recycle it.

RWECC - 09/09/11 - 02:05

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

Fighting Fires, Preventing Fires, Updated

09/09/11 293 W, 1 I - + 7 - 6

Saw this yesterday on Ladder 15, which was parked outside the Milwaukee Fire Department shop, which is a neat building beside their 100+ year-old Station 3. Pictures coming, of course. Hope to have some 35 former and historic fire department structures photographed, before leaving town this morning.

Fire prevention banners, signs, and graphics on vehicles and apparatus are not uncommon. Pretty rare around our area. Fire Prevention Week is a month away. Makes me think about a Firehouse Expo workshop, and this provocative quote from a speaker. Paraphrased, it went something like this: "If we're really a brotherhood, wouldn't we do everything in our power to prevent the very fires that injure and kill firefighters, and take them away from their families?"

Had that on my list, to transcribe my notes from that workshop. But that quote-- again, paraphrased and without attribution here! *Update: see below--* is a nifty discussion-starter. Suppression versus prevention. Reactive versus proactive. Heck, we could spend hours simply discussing the factors and history of how we (firefighters, the American fire service, the history of fire in America, etc.) got here. Maybe we will.



September 9 update. The above quote is attributed to Daniel Byrne, Public Relations Officer, Burton Fire District in South Carolina. He was co-presenter for the Fire Expo workshop "Public Relations & Fire Prevention: Effective Tactics for the 21st Century Fire Service." His partner was Lee Levesque, Public Relations Officer, Lady's Island/St. Helena Fire District. Watch for a transcription of that session from my notes that day. Also, [here's an editorial by Byrne](#) that's a pretty good preview of those notes, and what was talked about in the workshop.

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

9/11 Proclamation Ceremony at NCFFF Memorial, Friday, September 9

09/08/11 124 W, 1 I - + 4 - 4

Press release. On Friday, September 9th, 2011, North Carolina Governor Bev Perdue will hold a Proclamation signing for the September 11th Day of Service and Remembrance and First Responders Appreciation Week at 14:00 hours at the [North Carolina] Fallen Firefighters Memorial at Historic Nash Square in downtown Raleigh. For the tenth anniversary of 9/11, Governor Perdue is honoring first responders and encouraging all citizens to show appreciation to these brave men and women. First Responders are invited to the ceremony to join in kicking off the initiative. Direct inquiries to Alana Allen, Press Office, NC Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service at 919-733-5612. [Read related press release](#), and see a list of [9/11 Day of Service community service projects](#) .

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.

Vintage Rigs in Western North Carolina

09/09/11 67 W, 2 I - + 5 - 1

Photographer Lee Wilson has returned from another trip to the North Carolina mountains, and has brought back another batch of great apparatus photos. Among the vintage treasures in his set are these two Buncombe County rigs, a 1961 Ford/American LaFrance that served Fairview FD and a 1968 Ford/American LaFrance that served Reynolds FD. [See the entire series.](#)



Lee Wilson photos

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

Remember personal info?
 Yes

Hydrant Here

09/09/11 69 W, 1 I - + 5 - 4

Saw this this weekend in Ames, Iowa. Reflective signs atop six-foot poles. Helps when snow has buried a hydrant. The poles also had reflective tape at the top. Quite a few more photos coming from Mike's Midwest travels. Historic and former firehouses of Milwaukee. Pre-1900 firehouses of Chicago. And a pair of fire museums, Milwaukee and Aurora, IL. 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 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.

Old Doors, But Maybe Not Original

09/09/11 149 W, 4 I - + 5 - 2

This former Chicago firehouse is located at [228 W. Illinois Street](#). It operated from 1888 to 1968. Engine 42 was organized here, and operated at the location until relocated in 1968 to new quarters at 55 W. Illinois Street. Other units stationed in the 1888 structure included Squad 1 and Salvage Squad 1. The three-story, brick building measures 40 by 98 feet, and has a floor size of 27 by 88 feet. It is privately owned.

Let's look closely at the doors, and what looks like very old wood and hinges. Are those 120-year old building materials? My untrained eye wondered same. But a photo in a book (see below) from 1920 shows a different door style, without windows and lower in height. Thus these probably date to after 1920. What do readers think? Still pretty cool. Source: *History of Chicago Fire Houses of the 19th Century* by Ken Little and John McNalis, published 1996. Click to enlarge:



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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Caption This Photo / The Big Tip

09/09/11 93 W, 1 I - + 6 - 1

Happened Wednesday at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Minor injury to crane operator. Four cars crushed. Two smaller buildings damaged. The crane was 350 high when it tipped over and fell westward, this [WUSA story reports](#). Talk about physics in action! That's a Grove crane, correct? One of their big-boys, in the 300 or 500 ton range? [See more photos](#). Or even tool over to YouTube, and search on "crane tips over." There are numerous videos such incidents happening elsewhere.



Simon Landau/WUSA photo

DCFD.com has the story as well: <http://dcfd.com/>

Rescue 2 & 3 responded. BTW – Rescue 1 & 3 will be getting their new rigs from Pierce soon!

-Trevor

Trevor James ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/09/11 - 20:53

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

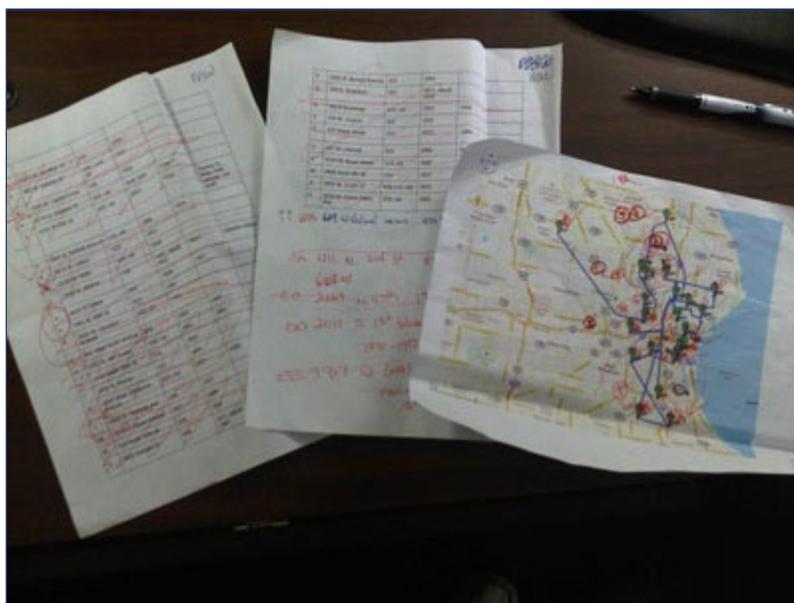
/ [Textile](#)

Finding Firehouses

09/09/11 431 W, 1 I - + 9 - 2

Here's the objective: find as many former and historic engine houses as possible in a city. Start with research. Google the fire department, and see if, by chance, by lucky chance, there's already a list of all such structures. You might get lucky. Or, mail the department, asking for same. You'll probably hear back from their historian, if they have one. Or maybe you have a book about the department, or other materials or sources or web sites that can be used to produce such a list. For my Milwaukee visit this week, their 1971 history book *Beertown Blazes* was the primary reference.

Make a list of the street address of all known firehouses or fire department structures older than 1961. Active or retired structures. (The Milwaukee book made this easy, with quite a bit of appendix material listing station addresses and dates of operations.) Build your list using Microsoft Word, and create a big table, one row per structure. Once the list is complete, move to next step. Enter each address into Google Maps, and look at the Street View. (Yes, this takes time. But, hey, it's fun to be obsessive.) Also use Bing Maps and their Bird's Eye view, which can be easier at times. Fewer clicks. If there's a firehouse-looking structure at that address, make a note. If not, make another note. Click to enlarge:



Once the list is finished, it's time to map. Used Google Maps again, and enter the address of the first fire station on your list. Switch to Driving Directions mode, and enter the address of the second station on your list. Then the third, then the fourth. Repeated until finished, or until Google Maps stops working. (That happened to me.). Then, take a screen shot of the browser window. Paste into Microsoft Word. Using the drawing tools in Word, crop the pasted graphic so only the map is displayed.

Return to your list of fire stations. Enter into your list the single letter that matches the station's location on Google Map. Double- or triple-check your work here. Get this step wrong, and you, my firefighter friend, are hosed. When finished, sort your station list by those single letters. Print both your station list and your map document. Commence traveling. Once you arrive at your destination city, consult your printed map document. Pick the first station to visit, probably the closet to your present location. Cross-reference the station address from your printed list of stations. Enter the address into your vehicle's GPS. Proceed to fire station. Rinse and repeat. Just like that. Questions?

Mike,

Since you mentioned using Google Maps, Google Maps Streetview, and Bing, what if I told you there is a website that combines all 3 at the

same time? It is at <http://www.mapchannels.com/dualmaps.aspx>. Email me if you have any other questions.

James - 10/17/11 - 04:40

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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.

Grand Rapids Former and Historic Fire Stations

09/09/11 157 W - + 4 - 2

[Here's a research document](#) for a trip that didn't happen this week. Historic and former fire stations in Grand Rapids, Michigan. [See this prior posting](#) on how the list and map was made. Posting here for the benefit of future web searchers looking for the information.

Listed in the document are:

- #1 - 38 LaGrave Ave SE - 1911 to present
- #2 - 4238 Kalamazoo Ave SE - 1970 to 1981
- #4 - 1945 Kalamazoo Ave SE - 1949 to 1989
- #5 - Leonard and Monroe (Allendale, MI, rebuilt) - 1880 to 1980
- #6 - 312 Grandville Ave SW - 1879 to 1998
- #7 - 816 Madison Ave SE - 1891 to?
- #8 - 40 Lexington Ave NW - 1884 to 1961
- #9 - 527 Leonard St NW - 1891 - 1951?
- #10 - 100 Hall St SW - 1897 to 1926
- #10 - 1734 S. Division Ave - 1926 to present
- #11 - 1002 Chester St Se - 1902 to present
- #12 - 554 Hall St SW - 1912 to 1979
- #13 - 1159 East Beltline NE - 1960 (opens) to 1981
- #14 - 2251 Plainfield Avenue NE - 1951 to present
- #15 - 1252 3 Mile Road, NE - 1960 (opens) to 1981

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.

The Hook

09/09/11 67 W, 1 I - + 9 - 1

As seen on scene on Grantland Drive, scene of a working fire earlier this evening. Engine 7 arriving at a one-story, wood-frame, single-family dwelling with 1,323 square-feet. Ladder 4 with the hooks and ladders, including this one. Two lines inside. [See the rest of the photos](#), which features quite a bit of external flash this time around. Was trying something new.



As that fire was being dispatched, and they said something about an elderly lady possibly being inside, I thought of you, Mike. If the stars aligned perfectly and Blogger 100 were the first on scene, would you go into Citizen-Rescuer mode? Have you found yourself in that situation?

rfburns - 09/10/11 - 00:18

And I'm just now realizing how funny the first sentence of my last post is! I didn't mean it THAT way, honest!

rfburns - 09/10/11 - 01:44

Blog 100 is always ready to assist as needed on scene. That said, it is exceptionally rare that I find myself on scene and significantly earlier than fire or EMS units. They're usually 30 seconds or a minute out.

Legeros - 09/11/11 - 17:37

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Vajen-Bader Smoke Hood

09/10/11 87 W, 1 I - + 6 - 3

Here's something you don't see every day. Photographed at the [Aurora Regional Fire Museum](#) in Aurora, IL, this is a Vajen-Bader smoke hood from the late 1890s. Leather construction with fleece lining. Mica eye pieces. Air furnished from compression tank attached to back. [Read about the thing](#) in this article written by ARFM Curator David Lewis. For a larger context, here's a *Fire Chief* article on the [history of breathing apparatus](#) by Michael J. Wallace. More museum photos coming soon. Click to enlarge:



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.

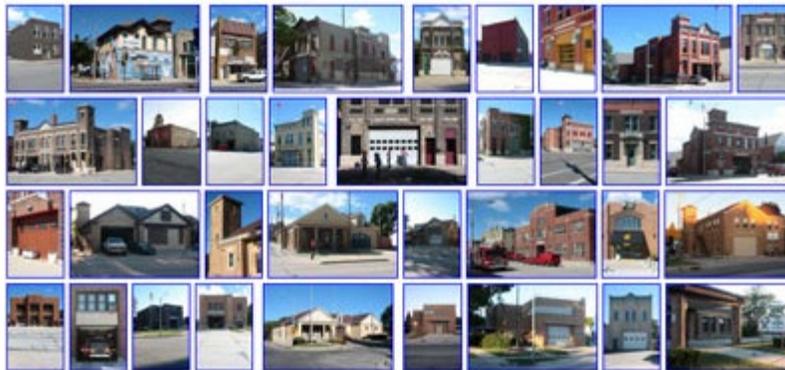
Milwaukee Historic Firehouses

09/11/11 182 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

Let's take a late evening trip to Milwaukee, for a photo tour of three dozen historic and former firehouses. Meaning, any fire department facility 50 years or older, both active or retired. ([Such as these...](#)) The buildings were photographed earlier this week, after Yours Truly skipped his connecting flight out of Chicago, while Mrs. Blogger returned home from a family wedding. (Our engine house explorations are also context-free, at least for now. Might add some information about MFD at a later time.)

Nine of the structures are pre-1900, including one that served from 1866 to 1888. Quite a few are early 20th Century. One was a fireboat station, another was a high pressure pumping station. There's also a quartet of single-story, bungalow-style stations from the 1930s. One of those is old Station 23, which houses the museum of the [Milwaukee Fire Historical Society](#). Big thanks to the historical society, for allowing a last-minute visit and helping to confirm a few more station locations.

View the [historic fire department buildings](#). Or look [inside the Milwaukee Fire Museum](#).



Great pictures. Boy did cities used to know how to build some beautiful firehouses. Most these days look lame, while the old ones look full of character.

Mike - 09/12/11 - 13:31

Rescue 3's house is super – <http://www.flickr.com/photos/legeros/613...>

Thanks for posting all of these Mike. They're great – it's nice to see old big city houses still in service, similar to DC and Baltimore).

-Trevor

Trevor James ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/12/11 - 20:04

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Today is September 11, 2011

09/11/11 20 W - + 7 - 2

Ten years later.

Reflect, react.

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.

Scenes From Today

09/11/11 122 W, 3 I - + 5 - 1



Firefighters watch as a flag is unfurled at 1 Copley Drive in Morrisville, site of this morning's 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb. Some 40 firefighters from as far away as Virginia participated in the event, one of several dozen memorial stair climbs that took place today around the country. [See those photos.](#)



A moment of silence was observed at all Raleigh fire stations at 9:59 a.m. this morning, the time of the South Tower collapse on 9/11. Pictured is Ladder 24 and Engine 24. [See more photos.](#)



Visitors filled the Rolesville fire station for an afternoon fireman's day and dedication ceremony of Ladder 15.

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.

Preparing For Entry

09/12/11 95 W, 1 I - + 6 - 2

Members of the Raleigh Fire Department hazardous materials team are pictured preparing for entry into a commercial building on Ice Drive, scene of an ammonia leak early yesterday evening. Those are fully encapsulated chemical entry suits, used for two teams of two firefighters each. Units on scene included E23, L7, R3, SR2 (recon unit staffed by E8), SR3 (decon unit staffed by L5), HM1 (staffed by E2), HM2 (staffed by E15), B4, B1, C10, EMS 34, EMS 35, M95, and D4. [See more photos from the incident.](#)



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.

Goose Creek Island Fire Department

09/12/11 260 W, 1 I - + 8 - 4

Reader Lee Kennedy shares this picture and report on the Goose Creek Island Fire Department in Pamlico County, N.C. The department is located in an area called Lowland, and their fire station was flooded during Hurricane Irene. Almost five feet of water damaged their engine, tanker, and brush truck. Though the engine was salvaged-- and has been sent to C.W. Williams for repairs-- the tanker and brush were damaged beyond repair. Additionally, all hose, equipment, breathing apparatus, and turnout gear were ruined. The fire station building will also be demolished, and a replacement structure constructed. (The flooding damage to that area was terrible. All of the department's members also lost their homes.)

Kennedy recently delivered some 20 sets of turnout gear-- coats, pants, helmets-- along with hose from the Faison Fire Department, after an e-mail requesting help for the department was transmitted by the OSFM and NCSFA. Help with apparatus was also requested, and four vehicles are presently housed at the home of the Assistant Fire Chief: pumper from Comfort FD (Jones County), pumper from Oak City FD (Martin County), pumper/tanker from Olympia (Pamlico County), and tanker from Sandy Bottom (Lenoir County). Two trucks have been gifted, and two are loaned.

GCIFD is located in a remote area of the county, with the nearest mutual aid from Araphoe (31.4 miles) and Vendemere (14.9 miles) fire departments. Long hauls! Thanks for sending and sharing, Lee. [Click to enlarge:](#)



Here's also a News Channel 12 clip about firefighters from around the state helping the department, found via Google:

Morning News - September 12, 2011

09/12/11 132 W - + 4 - 2

Good morning Raleigh. Back to regular blogging, after nearly a week's vacation and a busy weekend of picture-taking. Here's some of the local news coverage of 9/11 events by or involving emergency services this weekend.

- [9/11 observances in North Carolina](#) - WRAL slide show of photos from around the state.
- [In the steps of the 9/11 heroes](#) - News & Observer story about the Memorial Stair Climb in Morrisville.
- [Sept. 11 memorials held across NC](#) - Video story from NBC17, plus bit of text and three still images.
- [Silence, volunteering among NC events for 9/11](#) - WTVD story and video about local and state events.
- [Tunnels to Towers WF 5K was a tribute to the fallen](#) - Destination Wake Forest story and video about the Tunnels to Towers run.

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.

Fire Commission Meeting Notice - September 22, 2011

09/13/11 102 W - + 9 - 1

The next meeting of the Wake County Fire Commission is Thursday, September 22, at 7:00 p.m. The location is the Wake County EMS Training Facility, in the lower level of the Wake County Commons Building, [4011 Cary Drive](#). As the agenda and other documents are made available, we'll add them to this posting.

What is the fire commission? What's their role in county fire service leadership? [See this related posting](#) from a couple weeks ago, where Mike Legeros, A. C. Rich, and Lee Price presented an overview of fire service leadership in Wake County. You might learn something!

Really liked your previous post, I posted some extra questions

ncems - 09/13/11 - 19:19

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

Chicago Firehouses of the 19th Century

09/13/11 132 W, 1 I - + 6 - 5

More historic and former firehouses, this time from Chicago and all built before 1900. Why the restriction? This was a last-minute project, designed to fill a day's roaming or less. The structures were identified using the book *History of Chicago Fire Houses of the 19th Century* by Ken Little and John McNalis. Published in 1996, it's the first of four (!) incredible guides to Chicago fire stations. Dozens of engine houses served the city before 1900. But a handful have survived, or at least as could be found between the book and Google Maps. Can't wait for my next visit, and photo explorations. [View the photos](#). And don't miss [my Milwaukee explorations](#) also from last week, with triple the number of firehouses found.



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](#))

Eye of the Needle

09/13/11 57 W, 1 I - + 6 - 5

WTVD has posted a quartet of photos from this afternoon's unusual motor-vehicle accident on Interstate 40 at Harrison Avenue, where this tractor-drawn truck threaded the proverbial eye of the needle. It came to rest under the bridge's abutment, as shown below. The accident caused over four hours of delays. WRAL also has details.



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.

CANCELLED - Durham Highway Public Safety Day, Saturday, September 17

09/16/11 130 W, 2 I - + 5 - 5

Friday, September 16 update. **This event has been cancelled**, due to the latest forecast from multiple weather sources. Durham Highway Fire Department expresses their sincere thanks to all agencies involved, and looks forward to their participation next year.

On Saturday, September 17, Durham Highway Fire Department sponsors their 16th Annual Public Safety Day. The location is Leesville Road High School, [8409 Leesville Road](#), Raleigh. The time is 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pumpers and rescues and police cars, oh my! Bunch of your favorite fire departments, plus other agencies. Demonstrations including an air ambulance, a vehicle extrication, and live firefighting. And free hot dogs and pop, at that! Here's a [PDF-format flyer](#)  . Hope to see you there.



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'?

Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - Garner Fire Department « Eye of the Needle » The Pullman Fire Depa... Softball Tournament, Saturday, November 12

Garner Fire Department Softball Tournament, Saturday, November 12

09/13/11 142 W - + 6 - 2

Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 12. That's the date of the Garner Fire Department's first-ever softball tournament. Public safety teams both close and far are invited. The location is Clayton Recreation Park, [715 Amelia Church Road](#), Clayton, NC. The start time is 9:00 a.m. and there's just one day of play. Entry fee is \$200 per team. The format is double-elimination, following USSSA rules.

Teams may be comprised of two different public safety agencies. And agencies may have more than one team. Teams can be coed, but will play by male rules. They are limited to 16 players per team. Due to facility capacity, the tournament is limited to the first 16 teams that register. Other planned activities include a raffle and a home run derby with cash prizes. [Visit this web site](#) for more information, including sponsorship forms.

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.

The Pullman Fire Department

09/14/11 705 W, 4 I - + 6 - 4

The Pullman Palace Car Company of Chicago built railroad cars from the 1860s to the 1950s. The company built a company town, Pullman, IL, in 1880. Located on 4,000 acres south of Chicago, it housed 6,000 employees and an equal number of dependents. The town had markets, churches, a library, and, of course, a fire department. Pullman was annexed into the city in 1898. Today, it's a Chicago neighborhood and a historic district. A number of the plant buildings still survive, including the fire station.



The Pullman Fire Department operated in a combination stable and fire station at 507-11 E. 112th Street. The one- and two-story structure was built in 1881. The fire department section was a two-story brick building with one bay. In 1896, the Pullman Fire Department truck company became Truck 27 of the Chicago Fire Department.

The members were not Chicago firefighters, but the truck responded to neighboring areas. In 1890, its personnel were replaced with city men. In 1903, the company relocated to an addition to Engine 62's quarters at 2603 E. 114th Street. [See more photos.](#)





Also protecting Pullman was an engine house at 623 E. 108th Street. Built in 1895, the two-story brick station opened with the newly organized Engine 80. The one-bay station included a four-story watch tower. The lot was leased from the Pullman Company, who also built the station. There was no boiler, and steam heat was provided by the Pullman Company. The building served as a fire station until 1957. It also housed Truck 27 for several months in 1927. The old station is present vacant, and is the only surviving Chicago firehouse with a watch tower. [See more photos.](#)



Sources:

- [Historic Pullman Foundation](#)
- *History of Chicago Fire Houses of the 19th Century* by Ken Little and John McNalis. Published in 1996
- [Wikipedia article on Pullman Company](#)

Excerpt:

The Town of Pullman: It's Growth with Brief Accounts of its Industries by Mrs. Duane Doty, via Google Books.

The Pullman Fire Department consists of a marshal and eight paid men and two volunteers. There is a small volunteer company at Roseland having 600 feet of hose. The police force at Kensington take care of a hose cart of 1,000 feet of hose. Riverdale has a small volunteer company and 800 feet of rubber hose. The headquarters of our fire force are in the northeast corner of the Pullman stables. Here are found the hose cart and the hook and ladder truck and [horse] teams for taking the apparatus to a fire.

The second floor, over the offices and apparatus, contains ten beds, in which the firemen sleep. The good order and spotless cleanliness of these quarters always challenge attention. There are fifty-two Babcock fire extinguishers in the shops and public buildings, and the fire department has about 13,000 feet of serviceable hose. This includes hose kept in shops in large buildings, and it is frequently tested to

ascertain its fitness for use.

We now have a fire-alarm circuit, a bell-alarm circuit and seven watch circuits. A fire-alarm system, with thirty or forty street boxes, would be an immense advantage here. The fire district now comprises Pullman, Kensington, Roseland, and Gano.

Fires in Pullman

Fifty-two alarms were turned in during 1890, and the runs made aggregate 96 1/2 miles, and the actual working time of the department was 37 hours and 35 minutes. In 1888 there were only 30 runs and 46 miles of travel to fires. The loss by fires in this district during 1890 was \$151, 140, of which the loss in Pullman was about \$50,000. The burning of the Terra Cotta Company's works and the destruction of the hammer shops, the lumber dry-kilns and the market are the only fires of any magnitude we have had in Pullman.

Rapidity of Work Here.

With the firemen all in bed, an alarm has been turned in, and in one minute and five seconds the horses have been hitched to the hose-cart and the apparatus taken 360 feet to the northwest corner of the Arcadae, 100 feet of hose coupled to the hydrant, and water thrown from it. The hitching of the horses from the stalls to the hose-truck is done in six seconds.

[Read more in the eBook.](#)

My great grand father Harry DenBesten served from 1891-1928. I have his badge and pictures, single and group. Looking for more info. I'm a retired firefighter 30 yrs from Streamwood Illinois and 5 years as a volunteer for Harvey Illinois

James Dykstra ([Email](#)) - 04/17/18 - 19:25

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.

Morning News - September 15, 2011

09/15/11 517 W - + 5 - 6

Good morning Raleigh . Cooler weather on the way. Some twenty degrees cooler, in fact. Good weather for outdoor activities, such as Saturday's Public Safety Day sponsored by Durham Highway Fire Department ([read blog post](#)). It's that time of year, and we'll be compiling our usual list of coming fire department events. Please pass along event information as desired. We'll also be watching Facebook for postings and mentions. Now to some news stories and such...

- [Firefighters Keep The Faith](#) - *Wake Forest Weekly* story excerpt about last week's third Tunnels to Towers race. As the story notes, the organizers lined the start of the race with 343 pairs of firefighting boots. Each bore an American flag and the name of one of the first responders who died in the collapse of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2011. Read the full story in the print issue. [See the front page](#), for a nice photo from the event.
- [Working the Job: Charlotte's Stair Climb](#) -That's a firefighting blog out of the Queen City, and a posting about the blogger's participation in the Memorial Stair Climb held last weekend. Hadn't seen the site before. Looks about a year old. Neat disclaimer that invites readers to report "questionable, dishonest, or other inappropriate content" to CFD. Google easily finds other coverage and news stories about the Charlotte event.
- [Fire Law](#) - We've mentioned this one before, an exceptionally interesting blog by veteran firefighter and blogger Curt Varone. The latest posting is a eye-grabber: [Can a Patient Video Their Own Treatment?](#) He also this week weighed in on a [Suffolk County, New York, incident](#) where an EMS worker grabbed the camera of a news videographer at the scene of a haz-mat incident. That story and passionate discussion therein started on Firegeezzer, and spread to Statter911. As usual, there are comments a-dozen on Dave's site.
- [Does Your Web Site Bite?](#) - Okay, that's my headline for a impressive set of informational graphics by Adam Small titled "Eight Reasons Why Visitors Leave Your Site." Why should you care if people are leaving your web site? You think it's cool-looking. And your boss likes it. But if the thing was created for others to use and take action upon using the web site-- use information, engage services, buy stuff, etc.-- then it's a problem if they're not staying around, to get what you want them to get. Got it?
- [Raleigh City Museum Looks to the Future](#) - *News & Observer* story from last week on changes happening there. First is a planned reinvention of its displays, to feature interactive exhibits highlighting Raleigh's present and future. Second is a transfer of administrative duties from the privately operated museum organization to the city's Parks and Recreation department.
- [City of Raleigh Web Site Named Finalist...](#) - Speaking of web sites, the city's public web portal has been named a top ten finalist in the Center for Digital Government's 2011 Best of the Web awards. How cool is that? [Read the press release](#).

Regarding the last bullet: Seriously? Have they tried to USE the website? Specifically, search for ANYTHING?

rfburns - 09/15/11 - 13:43

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

New Bike Trailer For Wake County EMS

09/15/11 165 W, 2 I - + 4 - 5

Wake County EMS has placed a new bike trailer in service. Stored at Station 1, the 18-foot trailer has a 36-inch RV-style side door, ramp door in the rear, and 6-foot 6-inch interior. Modifications include connection for shore power, interior lighting, and storage cabinets. The shore power is also used for charging the bike lights and hand-held radios. The storage cabinets house medical supplies and bike parts.

The trailer replaced a smaller, single-axle version, which has been retained as a secondary unit. Two bikes and equipment are kept in the older trailer, for days requiring bike teams at multiple events on the same day. The new trailer was placed in service over the weekend of July 4. The modifications and painting were all performed by EMS members. Learn more about the Wake County EMS bike team [on this web page](#). Or see more [photos of the trailer](#).



Matchbox E-One Mobile Command Post

09/15/11 82 W, 1 I - + 9 - 7

Found this on the racks in a big-box store in Illinois, a Matchbox Real Working Rigs replica of an E-One mobile command post. Lettered for Hillsborough County, Florida. Watch for a brown and white version for law enforcement next. Not sure when we'll see this one in stores in our parts. The local big-box stores have been pretty lame in stock some Matchbox products. Or buy the thing on eBay.



I bought mine in mebane at walmart.

charlie - 09/16/11 - 03:48

I know, right? Target and Wally World have almost nothing!

Duda ([Email](#)) - 09/16/11 - 11:42

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.

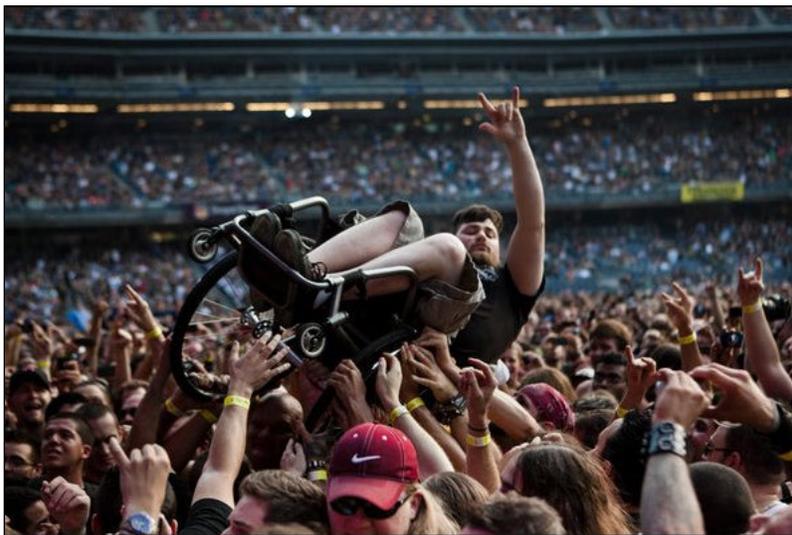
To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

Greatest Concert Photo Ever?

09/15/11 144 W, 1 I - + 6 - 3

Found by a friend, from a *New York Times* gallery, from a story about this week's Anthrax / Megadeth / Metallica / Slayer [concert in New York City](#). Photo credit to Chad Balka. The shots are great throughout, and well-capture the energy and colorful characters that comprise a heavy-metal concert. And that's what it's all about, for cameras pointed at people and no matter the activity. Capturing the most of the moment.¹



Chad Balka/New York Times photo

¹How many of my incident photos excel in that regard? Great question. I have been getting better with time. But there are still far too many "good but not great" photos in a given series. Nature of the beast, maybe? But that's the ultimate objective. Good documentation, but also as many photos that "pop" off the screen as possible.

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.

The Swedish Fire Expert

09/15/11 70 W - + 8 - 2

As requested a couple weeks ago by a reader, here's a dedicated posting about the provocative presentation by Dr. Stefan Svensson at Fire-Rescue International in Atlanta on August 25, 2011. Below are some notable links, include a three-part video of the presentation itself. Watch, read, discuss.

- [Video - Part 1](#)
- [Video - Part 2](#)
- [Video - Part 3](#)
- [Firehouse.com Story](#)
- [Firehouse.com Forums discussion](#)
- [Our blog posting from 2007](#), about Svensson.

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.

Vintage Postcard of Washington Fire Department

09/16/11 268 W, 1 I - + 5 - 5

Found for sale on eBay, here's a vintage image of the Washington Fire Department in Beaufort County. Probably dates to the turn of last century. Apparatus shown left to right includes a hand-drawn hose reel, a hand- or horse-drawn ladder truck, a horse-drawn hose wagon, a hose-drawn steam engine, and another horse-drawn wagon.

The steamer is a fifth-size 1888 Silsby, first operated by the Ocean Steam Fire Engine Company. [Read more steamer history](#). The fire station is the old town hall at 122 N. Market Street, built in 1884 and closed as a fire station in 1924. [Read more building history](#).

The Washington Fire Department is one of the oldest in the state. [Read more department history](#). Click to enlarge:



Around the time or era of this photo, Sanborn Insurance Maps of September 1901 described the fire department as follows:

- Volunteer with one paid driver.
- One steamer company, 35 men.
- One hook & ladder company, 25 men.
- One hand engine company, 25 boys.
- Two hand engine companies, 50 men each (colored).
- Fire alarm bell on town hall.
- Three horses.

- One first-class Silsby steam engine (being rebuilt).
- Two horses.
- One one-horse hose wagon.
- Two large hand engines.
- One small hand engine.
- Four hand hose carts.
- One hand hook & ladder truck (Hayes extension) [meaning possibly an aerial ladder, or more likely just carrying a ground extension ladder].

- 250 feet 1 1/2-inch hose for small hand engine.
- 3,100 feet 2 1/2 hose, rubber and rubber, cotton-lined.
- 500 feet 2 1/2-inch cotton-rubber lined hose, ordered and to be in service service.
- Horses work on streets during day."

- [See more digital Sanborn Maps from 1923 or earlier.](#)

The building now houses the BHM (Beaufort-Hyde-Martin) Regional Library. Beside it is buried a time capsule. The "new" city hall is kitty-corner across Market and 2nd Streets.

Duda ([Email](#)) - 09/16/11 - 11:29

I rescind that last comment. I was thinking further north. The building in questions is actually the DeMille Bldg., named for Cecil B. DeMille. As far as I know, it's currently empty. I always wondered what that building was originally. Thanks for the history lesson.

Duda ([Email](#)) - 09/16/11 - 11:35

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.

The Weekly Underwriter - October 9, 1915

09/16/11 272 W - + 5 - 3

Found via random Google Books searching, from [Volume 93 of The Weekly Underwriter](#):

North Carolina Improvements

A careful investigation of the fire loss in North Carolina last year by Assistant Insurance Commissioner Sherwood Brockwell shows that the total was \$3,252,2000. Added to this is the cost of the various fire departments. Mr. Brockwell, who was chief of the Raleigh fire department until a new position was specifically created for him by the State, says that for every dollar spent for new buildings, 42 cents was burned. He gives the number of lives lost by fires in this State during the twelve months as 126, mostly children.

The city of Raleigh has ordered an aerial fire truck, gasoline driven, to be delivered in February. The towns of Henderson and Washington have ordered motor trucks, and both of these will install at once a fire alarm system.

Preparations are complete for the observance of "Fire Prevention Day" all over the State and the public is showing a great deal of interest in it. A fire which destroyed the second floor of one of Raleigh's most important public schools was the direct cause of a great majority vote for a bond issue for the building of fireproof schools there, the majority being the largest on record at any election of the sort.

Raleigh has a fine reputation for a good fire department and strict regulations to reduce fire waste. Chief Farmer says the loss this year so far runs less than 1 per cent on the amount at risk and that the total to date is \$5,000 less than the small loss in 1914.

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.

Morning News - September 17, 2011

09/17/11 378 W - + 8 - 2

Good morning Raleigh. Soggy Saturday on tap for today. Good day to do work around on the house. Or at Blog Central, just more hours on the computer. Couple news items and postings to pass along. In the queue for posting is the agenda and documents for [next week's fire commission meeting](#). And how about that Swedish fire expert's presentation, [posted as a topic](#) by request? Interesting, to the say the least.

- [Garner Rescue Squad Merges with REDS](#) - WRAL reports on a merger of the agency formerly known as Garner Rescue Squad & EMS with another non-profit emergency services agency, the specialized rescue [REDS team](#). Nothing's noted about the Garner's Medical Transport Division. We'll watch for more information. REDS will start moving some of its equipment to 990 Vandora Springs Road this weekend.
- [Chatham County 9/11 Memorial Finds a Home](#) - News & Observer story about a land offer from the developer of a planned cemetery and gardens west of Pittsboro. The memorial will feature a steel beam from the World Trade Center. A committee must raise as much as \$500,000 for a building to house the beam and other artifacts. The beam was delivered to the area in March. [See photos of its arrival](#).
- [Fire Prevention Week in the Raleigh](#) - The city has issued a press release detailing the planned activities of the Raleigh Fire Department, including an open house at all stations (October 9), an event at Chick-fil-A at Capital Crossing (October 11), a display at Crabtree Valley Mall (October 13-15), a special opening of the Raleigh Fire Museum and including a presentation on the history of RFD (October 15). You get one guess regarding the presenter. More later, closer to the date.
- Coming Events - Let's see what we know about so far.
 - Hopkins Fire Department Community Day, 8933 Fowler Road, Zebulon, Saturday, September 24, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 - [Garner Fireman's Day](#), Station 1, 503 W. Main Street, Garner, Saturday, October 1, various times all day.
 - [Cary Fire Department Safety Festival](#), Bond Park, 801 High House Road, Saturday, October 8, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 - [Bay Leaf Fire Department Open House](#), Station 1, 11713 Six Forks Road, Raleigh, Sunday, October 9, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - Fire Prevention Week in Raleigh, see above.
 - We'll add more, post dedicated posting later.

Clayton Fire – Open House, Sunday, October 16th 2pm-4pm at Clayton Fire Station 1, 325 W Horne Street Clayton NC 27520. See our Facebook link <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Clayton-Fire-Department/187195871994> (Side note: Clayton Police also holding their Open House at their new Law Enforcement Center on Barbour Street at 1pm)

JDean ([Email](#)) - 09/17/11 - 10:31

Garner Medical transport was merged into Samaritan Ambulance Service.

DJ - 09/17/11 - 23:30

Thanks DJ. Here's a story on that: [http://www.garnerclayton.com/2011/07/10/..](http://www.garnerclayton.com/2011/07/10/)

Legeros - 09/18/11 - 06:04

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

Remember personal info?
Yes

How Dangerous Are Air Shows?

09/17/11 169 W, 1 I - + 11 - 1

The tragic news out of Reno, Nevada, along with numbers of stunning video clips, may prompt knee-jerk reactions regarding safety at such events. How dangerous are air shows, anyway? Google searching finds a couple of interesting documents for your Saturday morning reading. [Letter to the editor of *The Independent*](#), citing some statistics in Britain. And this [PDF-format article](#) by Des Barker in *World Airnews* from February 2010.

The author makes this compelling conclusion, which is certainly applicable to other risky activities and vocations: "As an international air show community, we seem to have reached a plateau in our ability to reduce accidents and incidents at air shows. The question is: Can we afford then to just continue and accept an average of 19 accidents/ incidents per annum? Further, can we afford to just accept what the dice have dealt, with the associated loss of life? Are we doing enough worldwide to reduce the number of air show accidents/incidents?"



Tim O'Brien/AP photo

Another one today in West Virginia

Scooter - 09/17/11 - 21:31

Watch the clip from the WV, notice how quickly and methodically the announcer responds, within seconds of the crash. In that business, there is probably a well-honed set of steps always ready in the event of an accident.

Legeros - 09/17/11 - 22:24

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Wilmington Port Cargo Hold Rescue, December 2010

09/18/11 166 W, 1 I - + 6 - 1

After watching a recent news segment about Wilmington and New Hanover County fire departments-- still assessing my reaction to that one, and if there's an appropriate blog topic in there-- we meaning me did a little Google searching on "Star News Wilmington fire." Found this photos from a December 2010 rescue of an injured worker in the cargo hold of a container ship docked near the state port.

Wilmington Fire Department Capt. Tim Smith took the photo, which is one of two [posted to this story](#). Bet they have some great stories down that way, of fires and rescues and such at the port and on the water. Maybe somebody will write a book-length history of WFD some day. I'd buy a copy! Note that the *Star News* story was published in a column called "Behind the Yellow Tape." That would be a great name for a blog. Probably already is.



Capt. Tim Smith/Star News photo

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Smoky Fire Video From Detroit

09/18/11 54 W - + 7 - 3

[As found posted on Statter911](#). He's got parts two and three. Pre-arrival video of a commercial structure fire, with choking smoke obscuring the view for the first several minutes. Your eyes almost start to water. Wonder how many workers they get a day, week, month, up there?

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.

Fire Engineer Talk Radio Episode 107: Fire Service Court

09/18/11 88 W, 1 I - + 8 - 2

As seen on [Curt Varone's Fire Law log](#), here's an 'net broadcast with fire service Chip Comstock, John K. Murphy, Brad Pinsky, and Varone discuss legal issues affecting fire training and firefighting. Their first topic is press and citizen photography of responders in public places, and echoes some of Varone's and Dave Statter's recent postings on the subject. They discuss the issue at length, and provide excellent education points on what's legally protected and what's not. Good stuff.



Listen to **internet radio** with **fireengineeringtalkradio** on Blog Talk Radio

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.

UPDATED: Fire Commission Meeting Agenda & Documents, Sept. 22

09/24/11 588 W - + 7 - 4

Updated September 24

Here are highlights, the agenda, and [the documents](#) from this weeks Wake County Fire Commission Meeting, held Thursday, September 22, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., at Wake County EMS Training Facility, at the lower level of the Commons Building, 4011 Carya Drive.

Highlights

- Former Fire Commission member Ann Suggs was remembered. She passed away on April 23, was remembered. Garner Fire Matt Poole said some nice remarks, and a resolution was read honoring her many years of service with the fire commission, including her tenure as the first Chair and later Vice Chair.
- The commission approved a recommended plan for reconstructing Bay Leaf Station 1. County staff provided a background on the project, including the current limitations of Station 1 and several one-story building options that were examined. They have reached a conclusion that a two-story facility better meets the department's needs and makes the best use of the lot shape. Groundbreaking is expected in the spring, with a construction time of one year. [Here's a PDF format copy of the presentation slides.](#)

Note in the slides the include a proposed financial agreement, where Bay Leaf FD will continue to own the land, but the county will own the building and lease the property. Also, Bay Leaf will deed their Station 3 building and property to the county. That facility will operate as a full-time county EMS station (and save the county the cost of building one in that area). Bay Leaf will in turn lease space for their Station 3 from the county.

- County staff provided a detailed update on fire service contract compliance and financial issues with Eastern Wake FD. It was information only, with no actions requested from the commission. The presentation was also very detailed, and provided a chronological account of actions and correspondence between county staff and the fire department.

The first of two issues has been resolved, while the second is still being worked through. Per the county fire service contract, there is a 90-day period for resolving compliance issues. Both the County Manager (during the presentation) and the department's lawyer (during the period of public comment) expressed optimism and confidence that the second issue will be successfully resolved. As for all the specifics, I respectfully decline any attempt to summarize. Instead, interested parties should request a copy of the audio recording from the Fire Services Office. Minutes of the meeting will also be made available at the next regular scheduled meeting.

Agenda

- Call meeting to order
 - Invocation
 - Roll of Members Present
 - Approval of Agenda
- Resolution in Honor of Ann Suggs - Former Member of Wake County Fire Commission
- Minutes
 - Adoption of Minutes for May 5th, 2011, Regular Meeting
- Regular Agenda
 - Bay Leaf Fire Department Station #1 Reconstruction
 - Eastern Wake Fire Department
 - Apparatus Committee Report
- Information Agenda
 - Fire Tax Financial Report
 - Chair Report
 - Fire/Rescue Services Director Report
 - Update to Fire Tax District Long Range Business Plan

- Fire Service Pager Deployment
- Post Incident Review Training
- Other Business
- Public Comments
 - 30 minutes maximum time allotted, Maximum three minutes per person
- Adjournment - Next Meeting November 17th, 2011.

Documents

Copies placed in <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog/wcfc/2011-09>

1. Agenda
2. Draft Minutes of the May 5, 2011, Regular Meeting
3. Apparatus Committee Letter
4. Finance Report - Part1
5. Finance Report - Part 2
6. Finance Report - Part 3
7. Bay Leaf Fire Station #1 Reconstruction

Notes

Among the information in the documents, the Apparatus Committee presents two requests, one from Apex FD and one from Morrisville FD, both of which are requesting that their replacement rescue units be moved to FY 2013.

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.

Yesterday's Ambulance Accident / Fayetteville Road

09/19/11 131 W, 1 I - + 7 - 6

[WTVD has posted a short story](#) on the yesterday's ambulance accident in the 7400 block of Fayetteville Road, south of Garner. Wake County EMS paramedic ambulance EMS 14 was traveling southbound, returning from a hospital, and swerved to avoid a second vehicle swerving in and out of traffic. The EMS unit left the roadway, struck a ditch, and turned on its side. The second vehicle didn't stop, and left the scene.

The two EMS members aboard were transported to WakeMed with minor injuries. Units on scene included Fairview E2, R1, C2, Garner R1, EMS 11, EMS 16, D1, D2, Chief 200. [See photos from Mike Legeros](#) (me), who arrived approximately 35 minutes after the accident, about 11:30 a.m. Glad the medics will be okay.



glad the EMT's are going to be okay. seeing as how the chassis is totaled, is the box remountable or is the entire ambulance junk now.

charlie - 09/19/11 - 21:07

It was EMS 14 that was involved in the accident....not 17.

Number on truck - 09/19/11 - 22:32

Thanks for the correction. Blind **and** oblivious.

Legeros - 09/19/11 - 22:37

glad everyone is okay

ncems ([Email](#)) - 09/20/11 - 01:09

@Charlie – I would surmise the whole thing is scrap. With the damage the chassis itself took, it would likely have sprung the body. Anyone want some barely-used red and amber lights? I'm sure you could get them cheap! Glad everyone's ok. I would probably have called a Trauma Protocol had I rolled up on that.

Duda ([Email](#)) - 09/20/11 - 09:41

Charlotte Fire Department Training Tower and Apparatus, 1976

09/19/11 82 W, 1 I - + 8 - 6

From the [FireNews.net Facebook page](#) and the collection of retired Charlotte Fire Department Battalion Chief C. Lee Abernethy, here's a great shot of the training tower with three lime ladders and one red platform. The tiller is Ladder 4, a Ward LaFrance. The rear-mount ladders are Seagraves. The Snorkel is an American LaFrance. Vintage photos don't get much cooler than that. Readers can perhaps add model years, and associated memories. Click to slightly enlarge:



I had to copy and enlarge the photo to figure out what was going on with the two rear mounts. I figured out what they were doing but it makes no sense! Why A frame to aerials together, rig a roof or straight ladder between them and then A frame two bangor ladders against the straight ladder? That is one that I have never seen before. Is there a purpose to it?

stretch - 09/19/11 - 23:54

For the apparatus buffs: The 1969 ALF Aero Chief 80' snorkel was destroyed in a wreck on the trip to Pierce for a refurb in the late 1980s-90s. The Ward LaFrance tiller that served Ladder 4 was later sold to Orchard Beach, AL, unknown whereabouts today. The Seagrave Rear-mounts served Ladder 3 and Ladder 10, but no sure where they ultimately ended up.

BFD1151 - 09/20/11 - 23:02

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Mystery History

09/19/11 30 W, 1 I - + 6 - 4

From the collection of Travis Loy and dated July 1973. Fire (and ambulance?) station somewhere, and an awfully wide-open space at that. Airport property, perhaps? Click to enlarge:



Ambulance on left is a 1972 Pontiac with a Superior conversion. I know Coopers had one like it, in that color, but it did not have a Q2B, rather to CP25 speakers. The only other Pontiacs I knew of around these parts were Stoney Creek (they were white over red Superiors), Johnston County Civil Defense Rescue Service (currently known as Smithfield EMS) that was an all white unit. Johnston Memorial Hospital also had an all white one. There were probably more.

The ambulance on the right is either a Miller-Meteor Cadillac or a Cotner-Bevington Oldsmobile with 42" ceiling height in the rear.

It looks like a municipal fire station, since in the early 70s we were still riding tailboards. Maybe a newly placed station in a newly annexed area? Doesn't look like an airport station, due to all the POVs on what would be the air side.

Cool pic!

DJ - 09/19/11 - 22:28

That's the old Forsyth County Fire Department headquarters station at Smith Reynolds Airport. The building housed admin and the county communications system for both fire and EMS. At that time FCEMS only ran 4 ambulances for the county and it was not uncommon to find them there both during the day and nite. The fire truck you see is "Truck 109". The concept of 109 was that of 2 FF to respond to assist other volunteer departments in the county for both suppression and command roles. The unit has varied over the years from a fire truck to more of a "flying squad" now with men and equipment but no water. The station also housed the CFR truck for Smith Reynolds. The station was torn

down several years ago and replaced with a one on the opposite side of the airport grounds.

Jeff - 09/20/11 - 09:18

And to add EMS was never based there but they would hang out there a lot. This was also county Fire and EMS dispatch as well. The fire truck was nick named Spot. The county ran two guys on this to assist the county VFD's on calls. The bay the ambulance was in front of was the CFR bay. They have since moved to a newer building. As far as the POV parking that is where the on duty personnel parked as it was inside the fence.

Billy Sparks ([Email](#)) - 09/20/11 - 09:19

Thanks Jeff/Billy. The space on the right side of the photo looked to me like a wider paved area.

What's the make and model of that fire truck, by the way? Don't quite recognize it. What other apparatus was stored there, in the 1970s, when this pic was taken?

Here's the current station, from a visit in late 2009. Scroll down this set: <http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/2009-1..>

Legeros - 09/20/11 - 09:44

Mike (I'll have Billy chime in as well) but the county fire station (known as Station 9) had "Truck 109" and also 2 CFR apparatus. They had a old Oshkosh unit (CFR1) for years that was augmented by a "chemical truck" (CFR2) that was a stepside pickup with a skid unit. The Oshkosh was replaced by a Ford E-one. You have pictures of the newest and current truck on your website. Billy knows more about that "Cornbinder" International. I'd say mid 70s on that pic.

Jeff ([Email](#)) - 09/20/11 - 10:01

OK. Looking closer I can see the pavement to the right of the station that is behind it. Never saw any of the airport stations other than RDU (worked there), Wilmington (1978 when they were in a big hangar looking building), and Rocky Mount- Wilson (small shed type building with single small rapid intervention vehicle but no staff quarters). Only FCEMS vehicles I ever saw were the modulars of the late 70s. It's always pretty cool to see the older coach units that were more common than I thought.

DJ - 09/20/11 - 10:35

The pumper in the photo (FCFD Truck 109) was a 1965 International Howe, I think it had a 750gpm pump. I have seen the truck run heavy (3 personnel) going to a fire at an industrial plant in the mid-70's. Back when this truck was in service it actually was first-in often in county districts around the airport.

Curtis Teague - 09/24/11 - 11:40

Thanks Curtis. One of my planned future projects is a book of historical fire department photos from around the state. Thinking more about that, maybe someday I can do one on **airport** fire department histories here. Now that would tag some digging!

Legeros - 09/24/11 - 12:11

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

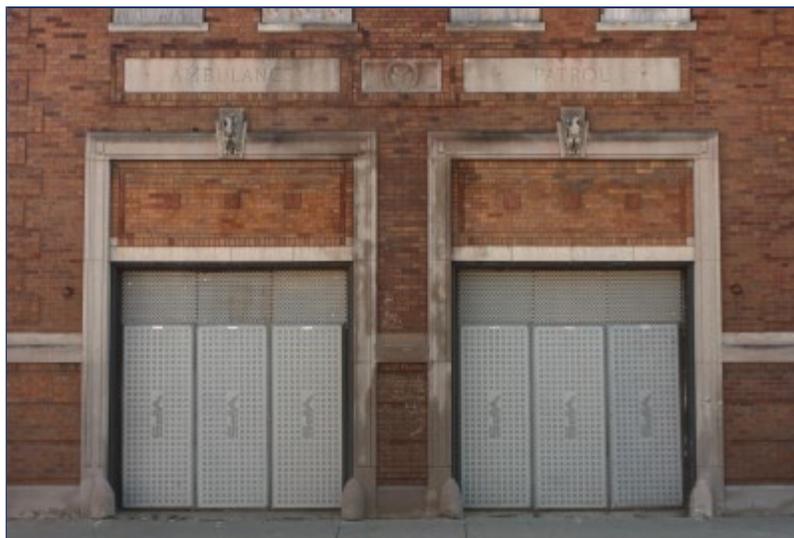
To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

Historic Ambulance Station

09/20/11 102 W, 2 I - + 3 - 6

We've posted pictures of historic fire stations and museum. How about a historic *ambulance* station? Saw this while cruising Chicago the other week, in a section of an old police station. The two-story brick building section included a pair of bays, currently covered with security screens. Lettering above bays read Ambulance Patrol. See same in this [set of trip pics](#). Click to enlarge:



From this [Forgotten Chicago page](#), the building was once home to the Chicago Police Department's 28rd District. Built in the 1920s, it's located on Chicago Avenue west of Laramie:



Forgottenchicago.com photo

Trip Photos - Chicago, Milwaukee, Aurora, and More

09/20/11 60 W - + 5 - 1

Five sets of photos from our trip to the Midwest the other week. Mostly fire stations and fire museums. Stored on Mike's Flickr site and all linked from Mike's non-Flickr [fire photo site](#):

- [Milwaukee Historic Firehouses](#)
- [Milwaukee Fire Museum](#)
- [Chicago Firehouses of the 19th Century](#)
- [Aurora \(IL\) Regional Fire Museum](#)
- [Miscellaneous IA-IL-WI](#)

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.

Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - Raleigh-Wake « Trip Photos - Chicago... » Evening News, Septemb... Emergency Communcations Center Staff Named Heroes of the Year

Raleigh-Wake Emergency Communications Center Staff Named Heroes of the Year

09/20/11 265 W - + 4 - 2

Press release. Employees of the Raleigh-Wake Emergency Communications Center (ECC) were named "Heroes of the Year" at the fourth annual Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce First Responders Appreciation Breakfast. The telecommunicators and call takers were selected from a group of nominees from five area public safety agencies and honored for their efforts during the April 16 tornado emergency. On the day of the tornado, many ECC staff members reported early for work or on their day off to staff both the primary and backup 911 centers simultaneously to quickly answer and dispatch the hundreds of critical calls generated by this event in the four hour period following. More emergency calls were managed during a four-hour period than the center typically manages during an entire day.

[Read entire press release.](#)

--

In other ECC news, the center was recently featured in a national ad campaign for Select Advantage Consulting. The ad shows Telecommunicator Dawn Luzon working at a console. The company uses pre-employment assessments of perspective employees to identify key personality elements needed to be a successful call-taker or telecommunicator. Their philosophy is to "hire for behaviors, train for skills."

Selection and placement of dispatchers using job analysis-based content and behavior causes dramatic and positive effects on employee selection, hiring, trainability, retention, and overall effectiveness. This allows a unique advantage for comm centers when it comes to matching applicants to likely success in the job. The Raleigh-Wake Emergency Communications Center began using Select Advantage with their 40th training academy. [Learn more about Select Advantage.](#)

Kudos to everyone down at RWECC! You all do an amazing job day in and day out! Thanks for being an important part of the public safety process!

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR CFP[714] ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/20/11 - 20:24

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

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

Evening News, September 20, 2011

09/20/11 359 W - + 8 - 1

Good evening Raleigh. Let's look at a couple headlines of the last couple days. They're from the west side of the state, as well as a couple national stories. Then Thursday is a Fire Commission meeting. Might have some notes afterward on that one. Also, double your fun with fire photos from [Adams Street and Lewis and Circle](#). Both Lee and Legeros were on scene this weekend, and even taking some of the same shots. It's always interesting to compare results.

- [Asheville firefighter autopsy results released](#) - *Citizen-Times* story from Saturday about the autopsy report on Capt. Jeff Bowen, who died July 28 at an intentionally set fire at a five-story medical office building. It notes buddy breathing was attempted after Bowen's SCBA tank was empty. No one has yet been charged in the fire, the story also adds.
- [Charlotte emergency radios malfunction](#) - WSCO-TV story from Monday about issues with the radio communication system used by police, fire, and other emergency agencies in the Queen City. Seems like these stories come and go, about digital radio systems. And in mainstream news stories, they seem to have a more alarmist of a tone. Maybe our radio-head readers can provide some context and reality checks on these types of stories.
- [Here comes the Hero Pipe](#) - Firehouse.com story about a neat new firefighting tool. Invented by a Chicago firefighter. Implementation pending from FDNY, the first department purchase the thing. Elevated waterway for high-rise fires, operated below the fire floor and on the exterior of the structure. Pretty cool.
- [The prank video](#) - Statter911's initial posting (he has added others) on the infamous video that's making the rounds, both in fire media and in national news circles. Trifecta of bad judgment on that one. But maybe it'll stand as an all-time educational example. You cannot not learn from this one.
- [Cemetery mystery photo solved](#) - So it takes a graveyard to really stump our readers. That, or a siren atop a mystery building. [Remember that puzzler?](#) Okay, we're blogging about blogging. Time to step away from the computer. Say good night, Mike.

The radio story is interesting. Charlotte=Mecklenberg uses a private 800MHz trunk system similar to what we use in Wake Co. Our system, though, is part of the NC VIPER system, administered by SHP. I can tell you that, state wide, the VIPER system has much more than 13,000 radios. However, generally the system is set up to make sure things like this don't happen. As for CM Schools, their radios weren't "the problem", per se. What happens when we turn on our radios is that they have to "affiliate" with the system. In other words, you turn the radio on and in that second or two it puts out a signal to the closest tower, tells the system who it is and what channel it's on, and what it needs to do. The system calls it back and says "OK". We have many control channels in the VIPER system, along with two distinct systems on either side of the state that are linked together. CM likely has a lesser amount of control channels, so if a lot of users turn their radios on at the same time, the controller they talk to would be inundated with requests. I find it difficult to believe that those requests would tie up the system for 35-75 minutes, but I suppose it's possible. Also, there are more than just C-M users on the system. Gastonia comes to mind. We're having an issue with that at State Parks.

Motorola is like the phone company. They'll never admit there's a problem, but they'll find a solution quietly and the "problem" will magically disappear.

Duda ([Email](#)) - 09/21/11 - 13:25

Digital is great when it works. But when it doesn't, there's absolutely no backup plan. No relaying from car to car. Nothing. I know that personal cell phones usually offer certain piece of mind. But couldn't the 'system' have at least one analog simplex channel? Even a 5 watt FMRS WT would be better than nothing.

scott warner - 09/21/11 - 19:37

Scott, most systems have simplex channels in them. Wake has them. I can't speak for Char-Meck. It can be pinned to monitoring, training, and reaction. If the units in the field aren't trained to go to a simplex channel and the dispatch center doesn't monitor said channel, it's a moot point. And I'm not 100% sure that Char-Meck's system is digital, all or in part. But it's not a matter of digital vs. analog in this case. It's solely a trunking issue. You can still have digital or analog conventional channels.

I'm very curious to see the outcome of Motorola's look into this.

Duda ([Email](#)) - 09/23/11 - 09:29

There are also different chief's vehicles to include WC 1 that have vehicle repeaters in them that can respond to your incident if you find yourself in a dead zone.

Mike - 09/23/11 - 09:46

Good to know re: the simplex and repeaters. Thanks for the info.

scott warner - 09/24/11 - 03:10

The difference between digital and analog systems and channels is that digital systems "tell you" when something is wrong, while analog systems let you blindly stumble along without knowing. I'd rather have the digital system "bonk" to tell me that it's busy, as opposed to trying to talk on an analog system and just not getting through!

CH100 - 09/30/11 - 18:29

eh... or having the radio not respond at all when you turn the truck on due to "OUT OF RANGE" errors popping up for the first 4 minutes while going to a run. Or the radio refusing to key up by "bonking" constantly meanwhile you cannot hear the person that is talking. Or not getting a signal at all on a major interstate highway. Our radio systems have a LONG way to go in this county. Yes it's better (maybe) than what we had before... but still... a long way to go.

shevais - 10/01/11 - 23:21

Is the answer as simple as more towers in the area where radio coverage is poor? How many total towers do we have and where could we use more at? How far of an area does a tower cover?

I know we could probably use one in the White Oak/Raynor Rd area as we have to use the repeater in the Batt Chief's car if Eng 4 has a fire down that way.

Mike - 10/02/11 - 10:38

The Wake County part of VIPER primarily operates from 10 tower sites located within the County, with talkgroups on State towers in Orange, Harnett, and Johnston Counties (and likely more with the buildout into Franklin and Granville). Nine of these towers operate as a simulcast network with only the tower at Fuquay Fire Sta #3 being what is known as an "Intelligent Repeater" site. The IR site will broadcast comms on any talkgroup that a user is monitoring within the reach of that tower.

Getting "Out of Range" for 4 minutes (or 4 seconds for that case) out on the street should warrant a service call, especially if it is a Wake County talkgroup.

When this system was designed, many "if we had only done this..." scenarios from around the Country were looked at to ensure that we did not repeat a documented mistake that another jurisdiction had made, with a focus on ensuring that the tower sites were placed to maximize coverage for portable radio users. Of the 10 sites, 4 were constructed new and the other 6 were additions to existing sites.

We must keep in perspective that there is no "perfect" radio system, nor has there been such to date. Regardless of the band, the vendor, the technology, digital or analog, building a system that will provide coverage to 99.999999% of the locations within a jurisdiction (including inside metal constructed building, below grade locations, etc.) is not only nearly impossible but would be very expensive to do. Maintaining communications between responders on the scene is a combination of the radio system, users identifying (hopefully before an incident) when/where regular comms will not work, and knowing without asking what the back up plan for simplex on-scene communications are. All Wake County radios have 4 direct (meaning non-trunked, non-repeated) channels exactly for this use. Do you know where they are on your radios? Do you know the places within your jurisdiction that their use is indicated? If you answered no to either question, do your homework and share the knowledge with others in your department.

In the next few years, we will likely see a significant upgrade to the radio system in Wake County. There are new technologies in the digital realm that will allow us far more capability using the same amount of frequencies that we have today. There are new radios that can work in multiple bands that may enhance our on-scene ability to communicate with one another as well as expand our ability for interoperable comms with other areas. In the meantime, we have to be subject matter experts on how to best use the system we have to meet our needs.

Olson - 10/06/11 - 12:13

That was a good posting. Thanks Jon.

Legeros - 10/06/11 - 12:43

I'd bet you a dollar that 75% of the users on the Wake County radio system can't find the DIRECT channels, nor do they know the difference between EVENT and PSEVNT channels, or how to get and use an EVENT channel. The remaining 25% either can't find those channels at all, OR they don't know what they are for.

And yes, if your radio says OUT OF RANGE for 4 minutes drive time, the drive should be ending at the radio repair shop. Loose coax connections, torn off antennas from the roof of the vehicle....yep, out of range!

Our radio system (flaws and all) is capable of out-performing most of the humans that are authorized to work with it.

And we still have about 15 ENGINE ONES in the county.....

Skip K - 10/08/11 - 14:46

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.

When Sideburns Attack

09/20/11 74 W, 1 I - + 7 - 1

Here's another vintage EMS photo from the collection of Travis Loy. Don't know the date. Don't know the people. Uniform and clothing includes: Beacon Ambulance - Raleigh, N.C. patch and Advanced First Aid patch on left; C.P.D. or G.P.D. shoulder pin and hand cuff tie tack second from left; I.R.W. belt buckle third from left; dangerous sideburns fourth from left. Click to enlarge:



The belt buckle is a "Hook-Fast". These were really popular around these parts in the 70s and 80s. I even have three of them- two for RDU and one from Yrac. I think they are still in business, but I don't know how popular the belt buckles are anymore. They also made badges and nameplates.

DJ - 09/20/11 - 21:07

I'm thinking that may be a Wake Co Deputy – they used to wear colors similar to what wildlife wears now and had silver badges. I have one of the patches somewhere around here.

Jason ([Email](#)) - 09/20/11 - 22:41

Ok, I see the shoulder pin now – I'm thinking Garner PD. Clayton wore the town patch on the right during that era, then late 70's switched to flag on shoulder before going to double agency patches in the early 80's.

Jason ([Email](#)) - 09/20/11 - 22:44

Guy on the left – Bob Parrish, guy on the far right Bob Briggs (sp) was a mechanic for Beacon in the 70's. Guy next to the officer last name was Whitfield (I believe). Picture had to be from the early 70's.

BOB - 09/24/11 - 15:25

Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

UPDATED: Upcoming Events

10/10/11 476 W - + 6 - 4

National Fire Prevention Week is observed in the United States and Canada during the week that October 9 falls. It commemorates the Great Chicago Fire that burned from October 8 to October 10, killing 200-300 people and destroying about four square miles. The first Presidential proclamation of Fire Prevention Week was made in 1925 by President Calvin Coolidge.

- ~~Oct 11, Tue - Zebulon Night Out 2011, Municipal Complex, 1003 N. Arendell Avenue, Zebulon, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. [Blog posting.](#)~~
CANCELED
- Oct 11, Tue - Raleigh FD Fire Prevention Week event, Chick-fil-A, 4621 Capital Boulevard, Raleigh, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. [More info.](#)
- Oct 13, Thu - Raleigh FD Fire Prevention display at Crabtree Valley Mall, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. [More info.](#)
- Oct 14, Fri - Raleigh FD Fire Prevention display at Crabtree Valley Mall, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. [More info.](#)
- Oct 14, Fri - [Antioch FD Haunted Fire Station](#), 5065 Antioch Road, Oxford
- Oct 15, Sat - Raleigh FD Fire Prevention display at Crabtree Valley Mall, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. [More info.](#)
- Oct 15, Sat - [Antioch FD Haunted Fire Station](#), 5065 Antioch Road, Oxford
- Oct 16, Sun - Clayton FD Open House, Station 1, 325 W. Horne Street, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Oct 16, Sun - Morrisville FD Open House, Station 2, 10632 Chapel Hill Road, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Halloween Weekend

- Oct 29, Sat - Falls FD "Truck or Treat," Falls Baptist Church, 9700 Fonville Road, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. [More info.](#)

Multiple Dates

- Three Fridays and Saturdays in October - [Antioch FD Haunted Fire Station](#), 5065 Antioch Road, Oxford

Past Events

- Sep 24, Sat - Hopkins FD Community Day, 8933 Fowler Road, Zebulon, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Sep 25, Sun - Stony Hill FD - Public Safety Day at Station 1, 7045 Stony Hill Road, Wake Forest, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Oct 1, Sat - [Garner Fireman's Day](#), Station 1, 503 W. Main Street, Garner, various times all day.
- Oct 2, Sun - [Thanksgiving FD 50th Anniversary Celebration](#), 2375 Thanksgiving Fire Road, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Oct 8, Sat - [Cary FD Safety Festival](#), Bond Park, 801 High House Road, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Oct 8, Sat - Fuquay-Varina FD Open House, Station 1, 301 S. Fuquay Avenue, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Oct 8, Sat - Morrisville FD Fire Prevention Day, Sam's Club parking lot, 1101 Shiloh Glenn, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Oct 8, Sat - Parkwood FD Barbecue, Station 1, 1409 Seaton Road, Durham, 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Oct 8, Sat - Creedmoor FD Fireman's Day, Main Street parade at 3:30 p.m. with supper to follow.
- ~~Oct 8, Sat - Raleigh FD museum open, 105 Keeter Center Drive, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - CANCELLED~~
- Oct 9, Sun - [Bay Leaf FD Open House](#), Station 1, 11713 Six Forks Road, Raleigh, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Oct 9, Sun - Fairview FD open house, Station 1, 4501 Ten-Ten Road, Apex, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Oct 9, Sun - Raleigh FD open house at all fire stations, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. [More info.](#)

Fuquay-Varina's Open house is October 8th at Fuquay Station 1 from 10 am - 4 pm. This is Located at 301 South Fuquay Ave. Lots of things for the whole family.

FVFD - 09/21/11 - 22:10

Southside with Engine 3

09/21/11 47 W, 1 I - + 5 - 4

Seen this afternoon on scene at a vehicle versus building on Garner Road. One person transported with EMS 1. Yours Truly was headed to the training center, and caught the call while on Western Boulevard. [See those photos.](#)



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.

Last Night's Flooding

09/22/11 101 W, 2 I - + 6 - 4

Here are a couple scenes from last night's flooding. How many inches of rain did Raleigh-- now named the best city in America, which means this must be the best Raleigh fire blog in America-- get anyway? Top shot shows Rescue 1 personnel returning from checking stranded vehicles on Wake Forest Road between Atlantic Avenue and Millbrook Road. Bottom photo is Blue Ridge Road, north of Western Boulevard. Engine 8 had helped there for a while. Photographer conveniently arrived moments after the engine cleared. [See more photos.](#)



Name: (real name preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes

Trees, Rules, Safety, and the Prank Video

09/22/11 323 W - + 6 - 5

[Dave Statter's](#) been providing ace coverage on the Macon-Bibb County prank video incident. His postings have generated upward of a 100 comments, over a trio of postings. After a few days of reactions-- and reactions to reactions-- below was my thought on the matter ([posted to this posting](#)), and an extrapolated perspective on fire service decision-making. Good point or just too much analysis? You be the judge. And what's up with that wacky tree metaphor...

With a couple days worth of reactions to the prank video (and reactions to reactions), we can tease some nuances out of the situation. Safety appears to be the primary reaction to the thing. Somebody could get hurt. But some others seem to put the greater wrong on the filming and posting. Somebody could (or will) get in trouble. Maybe this is fire service decision-making in a nutshell?

Why do you grab your reflective vest, before stepping out into traffic? Choose one: (a.) Because it may save your life. (b.) Because that's what the rules say. (c.) Because you might get in trouble for not following said rules. And maybe add, say, (d.) Because you're leading by example, and want the younger or less experienced members to wear their vests and (e.) Because you don't want your peers or the outside world thinking that you don't take measures for scene safety.

You get my point.

Same line of thinking can be teased out of the reactions to the video. Just about everyone is screaming Danger Will Robinson! Most seem to see a potential for physical injury or worse. But maybe more than a few are looking past that-- hey, firefighting's dangerous, hey, firemen play rough, etc.-- and seeing the real harm involving "getting caught." If a tree doesn't wear PPE in a forest fire, does the absence of getting yelled at mean it's still okay?

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'?

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

Mystery Vehicle

09/23/11 49 W, 1 I - + 11 - 6

This one's from outside our area, outside our state, and even outside our country. Rescue vehicle of a sort. Maybe better called a recovery vehicle. Any gearheads recognize the thing on sight? You'll have a blast figuring this one out.



At a guess I'd say Russian or eastern european, but nothing more than that. Do you have a better photo we can look at?

Paul - 09/23/11 - 10:17

I would say it is a Russian ZIL-4906.

A recovery vehicle used to recover Russian Sojoez capsules and cosmonauts.

Griggs - 09/23/11 - 13:39

Well done that man!

<http://www.amphibiousvehicle.net/amphi/W..>

Paul - 09/23/11 - 16:46

While growing up in Miami, one of the municipal FD's had a similar vehicle for specialized rescues. It either belonged to Coral Gables FD or the City of Miami FD

Wiman - 09/23/11 - 19:25

dayum... cant even spell my own name..

Swiman - 09/23/11 - 19:26

Nice to meet a new reader, Wiman! The city of Milwaukee also had one of those converted 4x4 amphibious units. Found via Google:



Here's a model of one of those Zil units, and that's how I came across the mystery vehicle. Saw the picture of the model on a hobby site, then started looking for shots of the real thing:

Legeros - 09/23/11 - 19:40

Mike, is Googe a new search engine?

Marcus - 09/24/11 - 10:34

Yeah, it's for people whose keyboards are missing the "I" key!

Legeros - 09/24/11 - 10:35

I believe that these are renditions of the WWII DUKW amphibious vehicle – they had one in the town that I grew up in.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DUKW>

It was a great parade vehicle, and it could in fact go amphib – in the Niagara River!

CH100 - 09/30/11 - 18:26

LARC-V (Lighter, Amphibious, Resupply, Cargo, 5 ton)

Mike - 03/22/14 - 19:24

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

Building the Original Ambulances of Wake County EMS

09/23/11 165 W, 4 I - + 7 - 4

For your Friday enjoyment, here are more goodies from the collection of Travis Loy. The date on these is probably 1976, the year Wake County EMS was organized. The location is [Swab Wagon Company](#) in Elizabethville, PA. Readers can advise the make, model, people, and perhaps story of what we're seeing.

As for the historical context, [Wake County EMS was started in 1976](#). Four ambulances, EMS 1 and EMS 4 downtown, EMS 2 outside Mayview Convalescent (and then in a [station in the rear of the county health center](#)), and EMS 3 at the current Six Forks Road location.

The organization of the organization followed a proposal for [joint city-county ambulances](#), a [proposed program called Rescue Medic](#). That's its own interesting slice of history. Here are a pair of history trivia quizzes from DJ that we posted in 2007, [part one](#) and [part two](#). And here's a bit more about the history of Wake EMS, [from the official site](#). Click to enlarge:



And see some other vintage pictures and picture discussions on these links:

Gallery of Galleries – <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/ar..>

Gallery – <http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/2010-1..>

Blog – <http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog..>

Blog – <http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog..>

Blog – <http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog..>

Legeros - 09/23/11 - 08:04

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.

Renters Watch Apartment Fire, Speedway, IN

09/24/11 106 W - + 6 - 2

Here's an interesting YouTube video, [found by Statter911](#), and filmed by residents at apartments in Speedway, IN. There's about ten minutes of footage of the three-alarm fire-- five departments, 25 apartments destroyed-- and filmed mostly through a window from the across the parking lot. Perhaps more interesting than the footage is the audio recording of those watching the fire. Such as the woman's declaration that they're going to buy renter's insurance the next day. Or the surprised scream of a woman startled by air horn evacuation signals just before it ends. Now you can watch the watchers watching.

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.

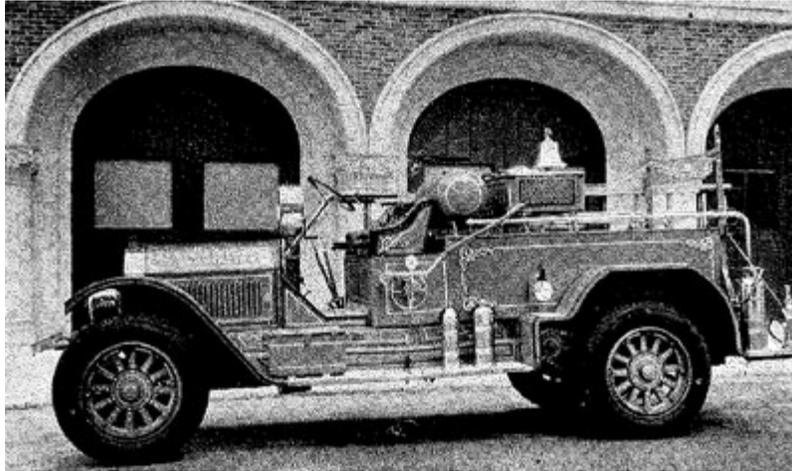
To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

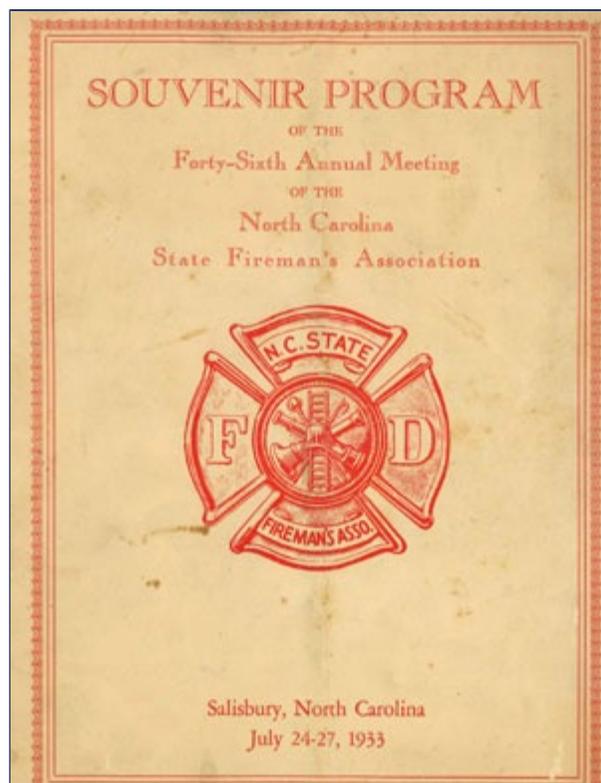
1933 State Fireman's Association Program

09/24/11 126 W, 2 I - + 7 - 5

Our friends at the Salisbury Fire Department have shared this document, a *Souvenir Program of the Forty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the North Carolina State Fireman's Association*. The thing's mostly advertisements, which are entertaining unto themselves. Look for pictures of the association's band (!) and the associations fire truck (shown below). Wonder what became of that baby?



There's a history of Salisbury, portraits and biographies of association officers, and a list of members who died since the last convention. The program for that year's event included reel and truck races, with \$1,000 in prizes. Read more about those events on [Mike's history page](#). Click below to [read the PDF document](#), which is about 4 megs in size:



Sherwood Brockwell Plaque at McKimmon Center

09/24/11 130 W, 1 I - + 7 - 3

Reader Chad Simon a couple months ago alerted Blog Central to this plaque displayed in the lobby of North Carolina State University's McKimmon Center on Western Boulevard. The plaque is one of dozens honoring university graduates. It measures maybe one by three feet. Sherwood Battle Brockwell, class of 1903, was the city's first full-time Fire Chief. He served from 1912 to 1914. He subsequently served for nearly 40 years as the state Fire Marshal. Here are some prior blog postings about the man: [his obituary in 1953](#), his early years [in the Department of Insurance](#), and his training [at a New York City fire school](#). (In the interest of full disclosure and school pride, Mr. Blogger is a graduate of the class of 1988. Go Pack.) Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad in 1950

09/25/11 141 W - + 5 - 7

This wonderful short film titled *Wisconsin 1000* is making the rounds. Produced in 1950 by the Department of State, it highlights the early history of the [Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad](#) in Maryland. There's a bounty of vintage vehicles, equipment, uniforms, and techniques on display. It's also a superbly produced film that was subsequently printed in ten languages and circulated worldwide. Readers are encouraged to compare with their memories and perspectives on early rescue squads in our area. The Raleigh Emergency Rescue Squad comes to mind as maybe comparable to what's presented, though they were chartered in 1953 and with city and county aid and effort. And they didn't roll with a dozen people staffing a heavy rescue truck. ([See this RFD timeline](#) and scroll to 1953, for more info.) Anyway, watch, enjoy, and marvel at the way things were...

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'?

Panoramic Photo of Stony Hill Open House

09/25/11 115 W, 1 I - + 8 - 2

Both Lee and Legeros brought their cameras to the Stony Hill Fire Department Open House this afternoon in northern Wake County. Here's a panoramic photo of the thing by Yours Truly. Used manual settings, so exposure stayed the same with each shot. Used about a 24mm focal length, to minimize distortion. Portrait mode for the seven shots. Saved as Canon RAW. Processed using Canon DPP. Stitched using [AutoStitch](#). As for the apparatus in the foreground, left to right you're seeing Stony Hill, Durham Highway, Wake Forest, Wake County EMS times two, Stony Hill, Bay Leaf, Stony Hil, and Wake County EMS. Click once or twice to enlarge:



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.

Statesville Airport Hangar Foam Suppression System Test

09/25/11 80 W - + 5 - 3

For your Sunday evening enjoyment, how about a little foam? Found this one via random Google searching. Shows a foam fire suppression system test at the Lowe's Aviation Hangar at the Statesville Regional Airport in 2006. That must be something to see in person. Wonder how long it takes to clean the thing, after? As for the airport, Google does not find any information on its fire protection. Perhaps readers can inform.

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'?

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

North Carolina Fire College Video - Durham, 1967

09/25/11 84 W - + 8 - 8

Might have to do more of this random Google searching. Here's a treat, color footage of live fire training in Durham, for the North Carolina Fire College in 1967. The footage is silent, though the familiar George Strait song has been added on the soundtrack. Check out the 1940s-looking pumper around the 2:20 mark. Front-mounted pump, with lettering for "C.F.D." First person to identify that one gets a free subscription to the blog.

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'?

Greensboro Central Fire Station Postcard, 1927

09/26/11 84 W, 1 I - + 18 - 2

Found for sale on eBay. Card was mailed in 1927. Building opened one year earlier, and originally housed four fire companies. Features of the facility included a Gamewell fire alarm station, a maintenance garage, and a training tower. The latter two were supplanted in 1956, when a new Training and Maintenance Center opened on North Church Street. Both Central Station and Station 3 closed in 1980, when a new Station 1 opened, also on North Church Street. [Read more history](#). Click to enlarge:



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](#))

CANCELED: Raleigh Fire Museum, Programs in October

09/28/11 259 W - + 7 - 10

Due to unexpected complications with construction at the Keeter Training Center, the Raleigh Fire Museum will not be open on October 8 and October 15 as previously announced. The Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society apologies for any inconvenience.

Please plan to visit the Raleigh Fire Museum on November 12, the second Saturday of that month. The museum will be open during its regular hours from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The location is 105 Keeter Center Drive, Raleigh. Admission is free. **This event has been postponed.**

Also on Saturday, November 12, a special program will be conducted at the Raleigh City Museum at 220 Fayetteville Street, Raleigh, on the history of firefighting in the Capitol City. Raleigh Fire Department Historian Mike Legeros will be speaking at 3:00 p.m. The hour-long program is open to the public. Admission is free.

For more information about the Raleigh Fire Museum or the historical society, please visit the web site www.raleighfirehistory.org.

Other Fire Prevention Week Activities

Don't forget about other Raleigh Fire Department activities in October, during Fire Prevention Week:

Sunday, October 9

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Open house at all fire stations

Tuesday, October 11

Chick-fil-A at Capital Crossing

4621 Capital Boulevard, Raleigh

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Fire trucks on display, fire safety education, and smoke alarm battery swap. Swap your old smoke alarm battery for a new battery.

Thursday, October 13

Friday, October 14

Saturday, October 15

Crabtree Valley Mall

10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Learn about fire safety, talk to firefighters, receive educational materials. Located on the lower level, outside Sears.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Morning News - September 27, 2011

09/27/11 234 W - + 7 - 6

Good morning Raleigh. Some belated news items below, including the last week's passing of a Sandy Bottom fire captain, whose death occurred within hours of responding to calls.

- [Apex to Replacing Aging Fire Truck](#) - *Southwest Wake News* story from Saturday, about an emergency replacement of Engine 3, a 2000 E-One Cyclone pumper. That's their white pumper. It's replacement will be a 2011 E-One eMax, and it's purchase will help replace two other vehicles in their fleet, including Rescue 1, a 1992 International/Hackney rescue. Read more about the AFD fleet on [their web site](#).
- [Three Weeks After Hurricane Irene...](#) - *Independent Weekly* story from last week, about life on the lower Outer Banks since the historic storm. (Some places flooded that were spared in the legendary storm of 1944.) The Avon Fire Department is mentioned, in the context of their fire station now serving as a community gathering spot and commissary.
- [Sandy Bottom Firefighter Dies](#) - Firehouse.com reports that Capt. George W. Fisher III, 56, of the [Sandy Bottom Fire Department](#) in Lenoir County died of a cardiac arrest while off-duty on September 22. He had responded to two calls within hours of his death, they note from a report from the State Fire Marshal's office. Capt. Fisher was buried Monday in Kinston. (Google doesn't find any local news stories of Capt. Fisher's passing, but maybe one will surface.)

The new engine for Apex will be placed in service as Engine 1 and will be equipped essentially as a squad with both engine and rescue equipment. The white engine, which was E1, was removed from front line service after the pump wouldn't go in gear at a fire last month. We have been operating the 2002 HME reserve since then as E1. We are lookig forward to a new truck!

Bob P. - 09/27/11 - 16:58

I can't spell... missed the "n" in looking...

Bob P. - 09/27/11 - 16:59

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'?

Zebulon Night Out 2011, Tuesday, October 11

09/27/11 166 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

Press release. On Tuesday October 11, 2011, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., neighborhoods throughout Zebulon and the surrounding communities are invited to join forces with the Zebulon Police Department and Zebulon Fire Departments in a unified effort to celebrate keeping the town safe! Zebulon Night Out will be hosted by Zebulon police and fire departments.

This event will be held at the Zebulon Municipal Complex located at [1003 North Arendell Avenue](#). The event will include free food, entertainment, games, and displays; child identification, community watch, senior citizen, and community policing programs; fire safety education, smoke alarm education, fire safety house tours, **antique fire truck rides**, and more!

The purpose of Zebulon Night Out is heighten awareness of crime, gang, drug, and fire prevention; Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime and safety efforts; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back!



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'?

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

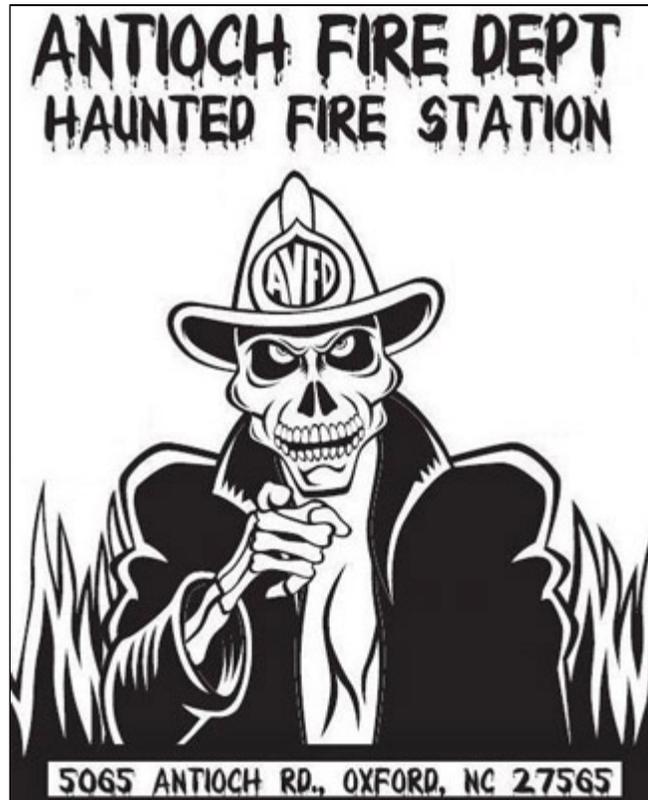
Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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.

Antioch Fire Department Haunted Fire Station

09/27/11 83 W, 1 I - + 14 - 5

The Antioch Fire Department in Granville County is conducting a haunted fire station for three weekends in October. The Friday and Saturday dates are October 14 & 15, October 21 & 22, and October 28 & 29. The time is 7:00 p.m. until... The location is [5065 Antioch Road in Oxford](#). The cost is \$5.00. They'll also have pizza, hot dogs, popcorn, nachos, drinks, and hot chocolate. Sounds perfect for boys and ghouls of any age. [See their Facebook page](#) for more information. Boo.



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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

Mystery Trailer

09/27/11 71 W, 1 I - + 8 - 4

This one's from a reader, who saw this trailer on South Boylan Avenue. He snapped and sent this picture. Mr. Blogger has also seen the thing there, some days ago. Looks like a surveillance trailer of some sort. What's the thing for? Or is its purpose too top-secret to reference here? Comment as desired, while I keep watch for the black helicopters...



Yes it is a surveillance trailer. Don't know who or what it is for. It sat outside the gate for the water treatment plant, on Falls of Neuse for a while.

Horse - 09/27/11 - 23:09

Notice the main camera pointing in one direction with those two other 360 area cameras for the area immediately around the trailer. Also looks like it is leveled for specialized equipment on the inside. 007 for sure...interesting!

Shaken, not stirred - 09/28/11 - 00:28

Probably belongs to RPD.

Marcus - 09/28/11 - 03:13

The camera pointing in one direction is a Federal Signal PIPS ALPR

Joe Brady ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/29/11 - 00:25

what happens once the plates are scanned?

lee - 10/19/11 - 23:14

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

1982 Pontiac Firebird Knight Rider Replica

09/27/11 143 W, 2 I - + 8 - 13

Here's another local curiosity, this one [found for sale on eBay](#). The thing's also listed on Craigslist, and was found by a buddy at work. One 1982 Pontiac Firebird replicating the famous car from the television series *Knight Rider*. The price is a mere \$27,000, though the seller will consider a trade. Barring the available of a replica Batmobile in the general Raleigh-Durham area-- either television or movie versions-- this is probably as good as a crime-fighting attention-getter as you'll like find. No guarantees as a babe-magnet, however. (Same applies to blogging, come to think of it...) Notice the interior electronics. Might be particularly appealing to whackers. Imagine the thing after adding dash lights, grill lights, rear lights, and a few more switches! As for the "real" vehicle, here's the [Wikipedia entry on KITT](#). Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name)

Remember personal info?

"Pink Fire Engines on Parade"

09/28/11 148 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

With apologies to Oliver Wallace and Ned Washington, tunesmiths of seventy years ago... Look out! Look out! Pink fire engines on parade. Here they come! Roaring and flashing lights. There here and there. Pink fire engines everywhere. Look out! Look out! They're riding around the block. Arrayed in chrome. Pink fire engines on parade. What'll I do? What'll I do? What an usual view!

I could stand the sight of worms, and look at microscopic germs, but technicolor LaFrance Eagles is really too much for me. I am not the type to faint, when things are odd or things are quaint, but seeing things you know that ain't, can certainly give you an awful fright! What a sight... Charlotte's Engine 90 as seen on the Anchor-Richey EVS web site. [See more photos](#). And the full story forthcoming.



although it is for breast cancer awareness and will never be used by Charlotte again as a front line apparatus, it would be interested to see this apparatus in Service and responding to fire calls. just the sight of a pink fire truck on a fire scene would be a sight to see.

charlie - 09/28/11 - 19:33

On Tuesday September 27, 2011 the Charlotte Fire Department took delivery of "Pink Lady". The reserve engine company was repainted pink just in time for the many events that promote breast cancer awareness. Breast cancer has touched the lives of many within the Charlotte community as well as members of the Charlotte Fire Department. This fire truck, unofficially named "The Pink Lady" is a way of showing solidarity and support for all those who have either directly or indirectly been affected by the disease."The Pink Lady" will make its official debut at the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on October 1, 2011 and can be seen at many different events over the coming months.

Capt Rob - 09/28/11 - 21:38

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Law and Order and Cameras and Records

09/28/11 264 W - + 8 - 4

Two news stories caught my eye this morning. First is a *New York Times* article about [camera-toting bounty hunters](#). Seems there's growing business in South Korea for people willing to take pictures of lawbreakers. Catch people breaking the law and the government will pay, both small money (\$5 for cigarette tossing) to big money (\$850 for unlicensed livestock selling).

Now there's paparazzi with a purpose! Enough people are pursuing the new trade that even schools on the subject are popping up. Or is that paparopping up? The article makes reference to cost savings on hiring law enforcement officers as well. Wonder what the hard numbers look like, across indicators there? The story also talks about the obvious ethical questions involved.

And the E word returns us to Raleigh, or at least Wake Forest. That was the scene yesterday of a house fire, with one patient transported to the North Carolina Jaycees Burn Center at UNC Hospitals. [WRAL reported the story](#). In a version of the story posted earlier today-- but since updated with different text-- they noted that authorities had not released the victim's name. They then added the purported victim's name, as found using county real estate records.

At least one reader has questioned the latter, in the comments section of the story. And that's a perspective that readers have shared in prior stories, as memory serves. What's the best behavior here? How do readers feel, about both releasing/withholding the names of victims and the gathering of public information about those involved in incidents? Your thoughts, please...

Here in Raleigh, our TV news has policies re: suicides, crime victim's ID, etc. If I recall that story correctly; they reported the registered owner of the property. It seems like a technicality. But I can't see what public service is being performed by disclosing that information.

scott warner - 09/29/11 - 19:49

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.

Wilkes County Fire Department History Videos

09/29/11 131 W - + 11 - 4

Here's a nifty set of documentaries about fire department histories in Wilkes County. They were created by the Save Our Wilkes History Committee of the Wilkes Community College Pardue Library. Here's a [page of information about them](#), from NCLive.org. Below are videos for Millers Creek and North Wilkesboro fire departments.

Here are links to the full series, as found on the [saveourwilkeshistory YouTube channel](#):

- [Austin FD](#)
- [Boomer FD](#)
- [Broadway FD](#)
- [Brushy Mountain FD](#)
- [Little Brushy Mountain FD](#)
- [Knotville FD](#)
- [Millers Creek FD](#)
- [McGrady FD](#)
- [Pleasant Hill FD](#)
- [Roaring River FD](#)
- [Ronda FD](#)
- [Shepherd's Crossroad FD](#)

- [Champion FD](#)
- [Cricket FD](#)
- [Ferguson FD](#)
- [Goshen FD](#)
- [Moravian Falls FD](#)
- [Mountain View FD](#)
- [Mulberry-Fairplans FD](#)
- [North Wilkesboro FD](#)
- [Traphill FD](#)
- [Wilbar FD](#)
- [Wilkesboro FD](#)
- [Wilkes-Iredell FD](#)

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.

The Big Block

09/29/11 41 W, 1 I - + 8 - 8

Cary Engine 1 and Western Wake Pumper 196 in action this afternoon, at the familiar scene of a motor-vehicle accident on Interstate 40. This one was between the airport exits. Their chevrons sure look good in sunlight! Click to enlarge:



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.

Blogs, Comments, Motives, More

09/30/11 1154 W - + 9 - 6

Been quiet on the blog since that run on comments on a couple fires, some weeks ago. Maybe that's a good thing. Here's a secret about being a blogger, or at least being Mike Legeros blogging about local firefighting: it causes him occasional heartburn. That's because he knows those people. Talks to them. Hangs with them. Works with them.

Thus for the many years that this blog's been publishing, Blog 100's been operating an echo chamber of sorts. Will this post give that person heartburn? Was that comment too toxic, if see through these people's eyes. Is that thread making that department look better or worse, and does it vary by rank or position? Etcetera, etcetera. Then you hear people's reactions to postings and comments and threads off-line, and the effect is magnified.¹ A person could nuts! (Too late, right?)

Open Browser, Scream at Screen

Quarterbacking remains one of the most problematic pieces of this Great Blog Experiment. And that's what this thing really is, a long-term learning lab on multiple fronts. Moderating discussions here, curating news content there. On some days, providing a platform for public information. On other days, serving as a citizen journalist. Being local (or loco!) some weeks, being bad and nationwide on others.² But back to quarterbacking...

Would we have tamer and more respectful conversations on this blog, if a Facebook-style method were used? If comments were exclusively limited to those who were both (a.) registered and (b.) reveal their true selves? That subject has been discussed here before, and a number of users have stated their preference for same. More on that in a moment.

When Ambulances Burn

Yesterday over on Statter911, a pair of videos of a burning (and exploding!) ambulance were posted. The clips couldn't be more different: close view as [shot by the Fire Chief](#), distant view as [shot by a colorfully commentating citizen](#). Reader comments in the first story caught my attention, as they were discussing quarterbacking.

One of the readers-- not identified by a real name, but perhaps known through his screen name-- defends his comments and his style of commenting. He defends his actions, that, hey, that video came right from the chief's video camera, it's pretty cut 'n' dry footage, the chief himself posted the thing on a public forum, and it's fair on a public forum to make comments.³ Interesting postings from Dave, and worth reading. Plus the footage is great. Have a discussion at the station about that one. Fully-involved ambulance, how do *you* attack the thing?

How About Facebook?

But back this meta-discussion. Earlier this year, Facebook launched a new commenting system for blogs and third-party sites. Here's an [interesting TechCrunch article](#) about that, including pro's and con's. Looks like the popular WordPress platform is the ticket to blogging + Facebook comments. This blog uses the Pivot platform, but that could be changed. Imagine waking up and finding Facebook as your comment interface here. As we've long discussed and blogged about ([here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#), for starters), there'd be pro's and con's of no longer having the availability of anonymous screen names.

[Then there's this perspective](#), from Joe Brockmeier on ReadWrite Enterprise and titled *Stop Feeding Facebook*. Pretty good posting about social media and particularly "frictionless sharing." Meaning, "the act of passively notifying social media of all manner of activity." Enable Facebook as your commenting technology on a blog, for example, and your blog comments are going to get shared on your Facebook wall.

"Game of Telephone"

Brockmeier's editorial makes a number of great points, from "social media as a game of telephone" to this great quote about Facebook and privacy: "Sometimes you want to control your audience, but Facebook's privacy controls are so complex it's never quite clear who can and can't see your messages. You're not assured that someone will or won't see a message, at all."

Then there's this great quote, which applies to fire blogs and quarterbacking: "All too few of the commentators take the time to actually read

the article or post in question. This becomes abundantly clear when you see [howls of outrage](#) in response to [features on The Onion](#) because the reader had no idea they were responding to a satirical article."

Be honest, how many of us are actually reading the entirety of a posting and all comments? Or are you skimmed, or jumping ahead to comments, or really jumping ahead to just the latest comments? And don't get me started on the ease of instant replies. Forget count to ten before sending. How about wait until morning!⁴

Thank You and Good Morning

Those are today's or at least this morning's thoughts on this blog, on its comments, on strategies for commenting, and implications of those strategies. We'll see if still makes sense in a few hours, after reading it again. Thanks as always for reading. Apologies as always for those who tire of reading about making sausage. Maybe we'll get college credits out of this, some day. Might make for a heck of a master's thesis! That is, if Yours Truly ever (a.) tries for an advanced degree and (b.) studies something other than the obvious choice of history.

End Notes

¹Maintaining or enhancing personal relationships is just one of my internal checks and balances on this blog. What's my compass look like? How do I determine what's better versus worse for posting? Goes something like this: Add value. Be positive. Show responders in a positive light. Be truthful, be fact-full. Transfer knowledge. Provide interesting, entertaining, unusual, or humorous reading. Maintain or enhance personal relationships. Be myself. They're not necessarily in order, and they're quite likely contradicted at times, depending upon the posting or the tone of reader comments.

²Time-challenge is another aspect of the "experiment." Morning postings are almost always written before work. Many originate as ideas that form first thing, right out of bed. (There are treatments for that, Mike.) It thus becomes a challenge-- and a fun one, to freely admit-- to see if a reasonably well-written or at least well-formed posting can be created in that short space of time. Usually about an hour, on weekdays. Then it's on to the office.

³How often are *incident*-based postings initiated by a chief or command staff member? Here, it happens very rarely. And that's probably the case on other fire blogs. In contrast, it's often the norm on a site like [firenews.net](#). But that's a news-reporting site, not a Some Guy's Blog site.

⁴We can test that theory, and see just how far people read. [Check out this classic graphic](#) titled "So you're mad about something on the internet..." from Gizmodo. Be warned, it contains adult language, notable the four-letter word that begins with "D" and means "less than helpful person."

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.

Morning Reading - September 30, 2011

09/30/11 268 W - + 8 - 6

Here comes the cool-down. Temperatures in Raleigh in the forties tonight. Here come the heaters, furnaces, and fireplaces. We know what that will mean.

- [Lessons Linger After 2006 Apex Plant Fire](#) - *News & Observer* story about a tabletop disaster drill conducted in Apex this week. The scenario was a derailed train near Highway 1 and Interstate 40. The timing is five years this week of the October 5, 2006, explosion and fire at a chemical storage facility in town. Great quote from Fire Chief Mark Haraway: "We had every acronym from local to county to state right on up to the federal government" during the event.
- [This Morning's Apartment Fire in Durham](#) - WTVD story, though no images or footage yet. Three floors involved, and fire through the roof. Thirty people displaced, twelve units destroyed. Apartment complex near Highway 54 and New Hope Valley Road. We'll watch for images or footage on [DurhamFire.net](#) as well. That's a great site for action shots and clips.
- [Garner Fireman's Day is Saturday](#) - Information page, from the department's web site. This event's a tough one to beat. Barbecue, for starters. Eat there, or pull up and get some to go. Games for the kids. Great community fellowship. Then the parade at 2:00 p.m. Right down Main Street. And it starts with the old station siren starting up. How great is that? See you there.
- [More Events](#) - Our blog posting with the latest schedule of area events, including updates such as the cancellation of two Raleigh Fire Museum dates in October. We'll see you in November.

Channel 5 had a live crew this morning on scene. also the durham fire department site on facebook, had a picture of the apartments up in smoke and the run card listed.

charlie - 09/30/11 - 09:32

Thanks Charlie. From <http://www.facebook.com/#!/DurhamFireDep..>

9-30-11 (2 Alarm Apt Fire) Calibre Park Dr. 9-30-11 Working Apt Fire 7307 Calvert Park DR. (A-Shift) 1st-BC3, BC1, E16, E12, E5, L12, L11, Sq4, MS1, SO1.

2nd- BC2, E6, E13, L1, FD2, FD3

Legeros - 09/30/11 - 09:46

The N&O got the location wrong for the Apex tabletop drill. They set this up to be where Old U.S. 1, the CSX line, and the new 540 intersect near Kelly Road.

Bob P. - 09/30/11 - 14:19

Thanks, Bob. The cited roads didn't make sense to me. That explains it!

Legeros - 09/30/11 - 17:20

Hey mike, they photo gallery for the Durham Apt fire is now up on durhamfire.net

http://www.durhamfire.info/photo_gallery..

durhamfire.net ([Web Site](#)) - 09/30/11 - 18:46

Yes the media got the Apex location wrong. The drill was more of a test of the staff in the EOC. All did well.

Scooter - 09/30/11 - 19:44

Photos From This Morning's Two-Alarm in Durham

09/30/11 103 W, 2 I - + 14 - 9

The [unofficial Durham Fire Department web site](#) has posted photos from this morning's two-alarm fire at [7307 Calibre Park Drive](#). Companies and units on scene included E16, E12, E5, L12, L11, Sq4, BC3, BC2, MS1, SO1 (first alarm) and E6, E13, L1, BC2, FD2, FD3 (second alarm). Building looks like a three-story structure, conventional construction. (Couldn't get the Durham County real property records web site search to work for me.) Dozen apartments destroyed, 30 people displaced. Reported after midnight. [See this WTVD story](#) for more. [See more photos from durhamfire.net](#). Thanks for sharing.



durhamfire.net photos

Engine 16 was actually using there stick to pour water on the fire from above. Nice to see the Quint being used for purposes other than its engine duties.

crs - 10/01/11 - 12:04

I wonder if Parkwood or Chapel hill was dispatched as mutual aid, and IF county crews were moved up into the city for coverage while most of the City crews on the south side were on this call.

charlie - 10/02/11 - 18:00

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.

For your Saturday enjoyment, here's a starter list of fire service acronyms, lingo, and idioms (expressions). What would you add? What are your favorites? Let's just keep the more morbid ones to ourselves...

- Bagger - Working fire that requires multiple alarms, such as "three-bagger." Originated in days of steam engines, referring to bags of coal required to operating the pumping engine.
- Barn Burner - Working fire at a building and that's fully involved or with a lot of fire, and fought from the outside.
- Bus - Ambulance.
- Can - See Water Can.
- Chock - Wheel chock, a wedge-shaped object placed between the wheel of an apparatus and the road. Helps prevent excessive quantities of paperwork.
- Drop Tank - Portable water tank, supplied by a shuttle of tankers/tenders, and used at fires far from water sources.
- Grab - Or making a grab. See Make a rescue.
- Hand Jack - Manually pull or stretch supply hose.
- Hurst Tool - Brand of Jaws of Life. Named after person who adapted the things from their origins in the racing industry.
- IC - Incident Command or Incident Commander.
- Irons - Halligan bar and a flat-head axe. Also the name of a riding position of Raleigh ladder companies.
- Jake - Firefighter or ladder/truck company member.
- Jaws of Life - Or just jaws. Hydraulically powered spreaders or similar tools for extrication at motor-vehicle accidents and other emergencies.
- Job - Working fire.
- Lid - Helmet.
- Make a rescue - When a firefighter or firefighters remove someone from a burning building.
- Nob - The nozzle of a hand line.
- PPE - Personal Protective Equipment, e.g. the helmet, coat, pants, and boots. Can refer to the entire assembly, which includes gloves, Nomex hood, SCBA, etc.
- RIT - Rapid Intervention Team. Also called RIT team, albeit redundantly. Group of firefighters at a working fire, assigned task of being ready to rescue a downed firefighter.
- SCBA - Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. Pressured tank of breathing air, plus mask, and assembly.
- Stick - Ladder truck with an aerial ladder (but not a platform or bucket). Can also refer to the aerial itself.
- Tanker - Tanker truck on the East Coast; aircraft on the West Coast.
- Taxpayer - Small structure with a business on the lower floor and a residence on the second floor. Don't hear that one around here, much.
- Tender - Tanker truck on the West Coast.
- TIC - Thermal Imaging Camera.
- Tiller - Tractor-drawn aerial ladder. Can also mean the steering mechanism of the trailer, or the Driver/Operator's position.
- Truck - Ladder truck with aerial apparatus. In past eras, included service trucks, which only carried ground ladders. Typically also refers to the function of the company at fire scenes, in addition to the features of the apparatus.
- Truckie - Member of a ladder/truck company.
- Turnout Gear - See PPE.
- Walking the Dog - Working fire, where the fire's really getting going.
- Water Can - Two-and-a-half gallon water extinguisher.
- Whacker - Playful/sarcastic term for someone with too many red lights on their POV, too many pagers on their belt, too many statements to others about "I am a firefighter", etc.
- Worker - Working fire.
- Working Fire - Fire where all of the companies dispatched on the first alarm are involved in fighting the fire.

Sources

- [Firefighting and Rescue Service Dictionary](#)

- [FireFighter Lingo Firehouse.com thread](#)
- Others?

Here in northern Illinois another term for hand jacking supply lines is "skulldrag". Back in the 40s and 50s many of our personnel and officers were ex-USN firefighters or ex-Marines. The term may originate there. (The term "ex-Marine" was perfectly acceptable prior to November of 1963 when Lee Harvey Oswald went off his nut and shot Kennedy.

Tom ([Email](#)) - 06/23/17 - 23:29

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.

Fifty-Five Years Later

10/01/11 1137 W, 4 I - + 8 - 2

On September 3, 1956, the first Garner Fireman's Day was held. The festivities include a 40-minute parade that originated at the high school, wound down Main Street, and stopped at the fire station. Led by Miss Polly Lynn of Raleigh, the parade included apparatus from Wake Forest, Wendell, Cary, Clayton, Apex, Knightdale, and, of course, Garner. There was a live firefighting demonstration (shown below), an all-star Little Baseball baseball game, and a street dance featuring Red Rose and his Carolina Mountaineers. Click to enlarge:



News & Observer photo

Two Volunteer Fire Queens were named, chosen from sixteen applicants. Prizes were awarded for best decorated bicycles in the parade. During the fish fry, pots of hot grease full of hush puppies and fish caught fire. Flames leapt from pots to the roof of cooking shed. Firefighters doused flames using hand lines after cooks using fire extinguishers failed. The crowd attending event was estimated at 7,000 people. The Garner Fire Department was four years old, with a new station at 110 Pearl Street, and three pieces of fire apparatus including a 1941 Ford mini pumper and a 1948 Chevrolet tanker.

Looking back county-wide, what else was happening in September 1956? Rural fire protection was a growing movement, with departments forming or having been formed since the Garner Fire Department organized in 1952. Many were formed to protect towns, or the rural districts outside of towns. Departments were also forming to protect Raleigh's suburbs, with Six Forks and New Hope already formed and Western Boulevard another year away. The Wake County Fireman's Association had also formed a year earlier in 1955. Here are some highlights of histories, [drawn from my web site](#).

- The Raleigh Fire Department had six stations, with seven engine companies, one aerial ladder company, and two service ladder companies. They answered 956 calls in the prior year. Their authorized positions numbered 112. Fire Chief Jack Keeter was one year into his tenure, after Chief Alvin Lloyd died off-duty in February 1955. The department had experienced its first line-of-duty death, when Driver Vernon Smith passed away from injuries sustained at an apparatus accident four years earlier. Radios had been installed in all apparatus, though base stations at fire stations were still some months away. Radio dispatching of county fire departments was a couple years away.
- The Cary Fire Department had the largest fleet of any town or town-related fire department. They had replaced their 1931 Chevrolet pumper three years ago, and expanded their fleet to include two tankers and a rescue truck. They held their fourth Fireman's Day in May 1956, which attracted 5,000 people. The volunteer department hired its first paid member that year, and announced plans to build a \$75,000 fire station on the southeast corner of Cedar and Academy streets. Construction would start a couple years later. Click to enlarge:



Courtesy Cary Fire Department

- The Apex Fire Department dedicated its new fire station at their third annual Fireman's Day. The 50 by 32 foot building was located at 210 N. Salem Street and housed the town truck and two rural trucks. In December of that year, the department's board approved construction of an observation tower atop the fire station for the use of Civilian Defense Ground Observer Corps.
- The Fuquay-Varina Fire Department was comprised of two entities, a town and a rural fire department. The latter was two years old, had two pumpers and a tanker, and a storage space in the vicinity of the 100 block of Fuquay Avenue.
- The Knightdale Fire Department had purchased their first pumper one year earlier, a 1942 International obtained from Navy Surplus. They also operated a pick-up truck carrying hose and equipment. Hydrant pressure was utilized for the first couple years of the department's operation. Their fire station at 401 Hester Street was constructed in the spring of 1956. That building is still standing. Charlie Smith was the Fire Chief. [Click to enlarge:](#)



Courtesy Larue Stalvey

- The Raleigh-Durham Airport fire department operated a 1946 International/Bean pumper and a 1952 Chevrolet pick-up with a skid-mounted dual-agent system. The airport's Terminal building had opened a year earlier. The airport firefighters were most likely ramp personnel or other airport employees. They were three years away from purchasing their first modern crash truck.
- The Morrisville Fire Department had formed a year earlier. They operated a military "deuce and a half" turned pumper and a military surplus Dodge Power Wagon turned brush truck. The fire station was a tin shed behind the Red and White store. They were two years away from building their permanent fire station, which still stands albeit significantly expanded.
- The North Carolina Forest Service staffed three fire towers in Wake County, on Six Forks Road a half-mile north of now-Strickland Road, in downtown Knightdale on Hester Street, and on Swift Creek Church-Apex Road southeast of Apex.
- The Six Forks Road Fire Department was a couple months old. They protected 600 homes in the Chestnut Hills, Millbrook, Crestview, Farris Hills, Northwood, and Belview Terrace communities. Their station was a converted barn on the south side of Howells Store on the east side of Six Forks Road just south of Lassiter Mill Road. They operated a 1956 Ford/American/Barton pumper and a military

surplus tanker/tanker conversion. Click to enlarge:



News & Observer photo

- The Wake Forest Fire Department had organized a rural fire department in April. The first officers included President R. A. Keith and Fire Chief Willis Winston. The rural fire district was named Wakette. Their first fire truck was a 1942 Chevy 1 1/2-ton pumper purchased as Civil Defense surplus. The town was protected by two fire departments, segregated by race. The all-white Wake Forest Fire Department was housed in the municipal building at the corner of Brooks and Owen. The all-black Wake Forest Fire Department #2 was housed on Taylor Street.
- The Wake New Hope Fire Department had organized. They were incorporated on September 11, 1956. Their first fire station was an "L" shaped building at the corner of Louisburg and New Hope roads. As the stories go, their membership included a large number of Westinghouse employees. The company's meter plant was located outside the city, near the current location of Capital Boulevard and the Beltline.
- The Wendell Fire Department had joined the county's rural fire department program a few months earlier. They formed the Wendell Rural Fire Company in March 1957. The town fire department operated a 1952 Ford pumper that was housed in the 1952 fire station on Fourth Street, located under the water tower.
- The Zebulon Fire Department was also comprised of separate town and rural departments. The latter was three years old and operated a 1953 International pumper purchased with the help of the Zebulon Farm Bureau. The town and rural trucks occupied a two-bay station in the 1951 Municipal Building.
- Did we miss anyone? Not listed are those departments formed after September 1956, such as Rolesville, Stony Hill, Western Boulevard, etc.

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

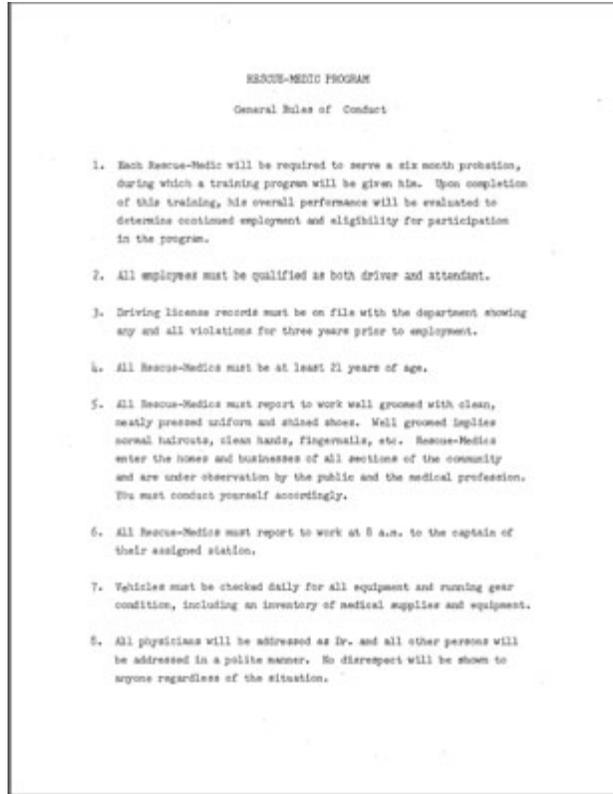
Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Rescue-Medic Rules of Conduct, 1976

10/02/11 102 W, 2 I - + 7 - 1

Here's a historical gem for your Sunday enjoyment. These are the General Rules of Conduct contained in a 1976 proposal for a Raleigh/Wake County Rescue-Medic program. The idea added four two-person emergency medical units at four Raleigh fire stations. They would augment the department's two rescue squads. The six units would respond both inside Raleigh and within some territory outside the city. The proposal was not adopted, and instead the organization named Wake County EMS was created. [Read an earlier blog post](#) about this proposal, or read the [full proposal document](#) . Click to read this three-page excerpt:



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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Cleaning Your Camera Sensor

10/02/11 122 W, 2 I - + 6 - 1

Own a digital SLR camera and you'll see these spots sooner or later. What's that, water on the lens? Nope, those are dust particles on the sensor. (Water spots are huge by comparison, and translucent.) My first line of defense is a dust blower. Little round rubber thing that expels a burst of air. Works pretty good. Then [check the camera sensor](#), to see if it worked. Still seeing spots? Next line of defense is a wet cleaning, using these [products from Photographic Solutions](#). Works like a charm. What about spots on photos already taken? That one's easy. Digital post-processing and they're gone. Click to enlarge. And five points extra credit if you can identify the shot:



Thanks Mike. I have wondering how to clean those spots and where they came from. I thought the problem was on the lens. I forgot about the sensor. I have enjoyed your photos. Being a retired fireman from WNHFD, the memories of firefighting return. Thanks again.

Walt Chambers ([Email](#)) - 10/02/11 - 19:37

Really High Sticks?

10/03/11 79 W, 1 I - + 5 - 1

While reading [Statter911's Sunday coverage of a San Diego structure fire](#), and two video clips including raw footage therein, noticed these two sticks deployed. Wow, they look really high!. Is that a trick of the camera, or just... how it usually looks? Guess I have been seeing too much big-city fire footage lately, and am used to seeing skyscrapers or other tall buildings in the background. Happy Monday.



According to their website San Diego Fire department has 12 front line aerials spanning from 75 feet to 100 feet tall.

stretch - 10/03/11 - 08:52

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.

Texas Chemical Fire From Afar

10/03/11 66 W, 1 I - + 6 - 5

NBC Dallas-Fort Worth has posted an [interesting gallery of reader photos](#), notably dozens of shots of the distant smoke plume of this morning's chemical plant fire in Waxahacie, TX. Wonder how far away it could be viewed? Check various news or fire news sites for more, including a Sutphen aerial platform that burned during the blaze.



NBC Dallas-Fort Worth photo

From a reader out that way, here's the truck that the Ennis Fire Department lost:

<http://www.wfaa.com/video/featured-video..>

and pics of before and after:

<http://www.wfaa.com/news/slideshows/Phot..>

Legeros - 10/03/11 - 18:06

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Chapel Hill Public Safety Patch

10/03/11 93 W, 1 I - + 5 - 1

Found one of these for sale on eBay, though the auction's scan was pretty poor. Google found the below version on PatchGallery.com, which has been rotated and enhanced. The site contains a whopping 600 patches for fire department and fire protection agencies in our state. As for Chapel Hill, the town's police officers and firefighters operated as a combined public safety department from 1971 to 1993. Beyond those dates, details in my files are next to nothing. Maybe readers can share some stories.



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'?

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

Morning Reading - October 4, 2011

10/04/11 369 W - + 6 - 3

Good morning Raleigh. Cooler weather has arrived. Now awaiting the color changes. State Fair in a couple more weeks. Didn't enter the photography competition this year. Slipped my mind. Didn't even review the past year's pictures, to see if anything seemed stunning enough. And I am niche photographer anyway.

- [911 Chief Sees Need for Modern Safety Center](#) - *Midtown Raleigh News* article from last week, with the Director of the Raleigh-Wake County Emergency Communications Center recalling the conditions and the limitations of the facilities used by officials managing the emergencies of the April 16 tornado. The article also references the proposed Lightner Center project, and positions held by the Raleigh mayoral candidates.
- [Five Have Died at Curve Since 1992](#) - *News & Observer* story today about a narrow curve on Highway 751 near the Duke campus in Durham, and where two young men died there 14 years apart. It's been a tough several days for vehicular accidents in our area. Pedestrian killed on the Beltline. Shopper killed and two injured at the Wal-Mart in Smithfield. Two teens walking along railroad tracks in Mebane. To name a couple. Please drive safety. Please don't drink and drive.
- [Wilkes County Fire Department History Videos](#) - There are 24 of the things, each only a few minutes in length. They were created by a history committee out of the community college's library. Anyone with an interest in local history should watch at least a couple, as they're nifty examples of a presentation format. Maybe someday someone(s) can produce something similar for Wake County. Would be easy enough. Get a group of folks to manage the project, and raise money from donors. Contract a video company to make the things. Etcetera.
- [Firefighters Escape Chemical Fire, Lose Truck](#) - WFAA story with video clip. The narrative of this close call starts like this: "Two fire fighters in a bucket at the tip of a partially-extended ladder watched a river of flame pour out of a burning chemical plant in Waxahachie. Fire rolled down a sloping drive, towards their truck." [We blogged yesterday](#) about the fire and a neat gallery of viewer photos, showing the plume from close and afar.

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'?

Cleveland's 1961 Ford/America LaFrance

10/05/11 67 W, 1 I - + 7 - 3

Lee Wilson has posted a set of apparatus photos from Wilson's Mills and Cleveland fire departments in Johnston County. [See those shots](#). He also attended the Thanksgiving Fire Department's 50th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, and has [posted those photos](#). Below is Cleveland's original Engine 1, a 1961 Ford/American LaFrance that was recently refurbished. Sure looks nice sitting in the sun.



Lee Wilson 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'?

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

Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - North Carolina EMS News, « Cleveland's 1961 Ford... » Mystery History
Vol. 1, No. 1, April 1974

North Carolina EMS News, Vol. 1, No. 1, April 1974

10/05/11 80 W, 1 I - + 5 - 3

Here's an interesting artifact, the first issue of *North Carolina EMS News*, the original newsletter published by the North Carolina [Office of Emergency Medical Services](#). Dated April 1974, a mere three years after the North Carolina General Assembly directed a research commission to study the problems of emergency medical care in our state. That beget the Emergency Medical Services Act of 1973, and the state OEMS agency therein. Click to read this PDF document:



You have to wonder sometimes how EMS in NC would have looked had they not fired Jim Page as State EMS Chief...

DJ - 10/05/11 - 20:53

I agree, DJ!!! I was just getting ready to point out to those who didn't notice that the great Jim Page was the first Chief of OEMS in North Carolina. He was responsible for developing the paramedic program for the LA County FD and was instrumental in development and served as technical advisor to the television show EMERGENCY! and I'm sure everyone has read from his creation "JEMS" magazine. How lucky we are to have had him in our early stages of EMS in NC. My dad was one of the ones who got credit for his red cross training and only had to do the 51 hour EMT course. We were just talking about this at supper the other night. Thanks so much Mike for posting this – My dad will love to see this as he was a part of this great era of EMS in NC.

Jason Thompson ([Email](#)) - 10/05/11 - 22:24

And NC's official response to Jim was to fire him, because he had the nerve to insist that individuals had to be able to pass a written test to be certified as EMTs!

Here's a trivia questions for you: Describe the role played by Charles H. Speed in North Carolina's EMS system.

Skip K - 10/08/11 - 14:49

I remember the Name "Charles Speed" Maybe he was the OEMS Chief late 70's early 80's before Heimerlink?? Something in the back of my feable mind also thinks maybe prior to OEMS he was with the NCSHP?? Then again there was a state senator?? from the Franklin Co. area with the last name speed, so I have probly gotten them all confused. I do think Skip K. your telling your age, as am I.

Galax,VA - 10/08/11 - 18:25

Charles Speed was a former Chief of NCOEMS, also had been a Colonel for the NC Highway Patrol, and done a term sometime in his life working for the safe crossing program. The Senator Speed was James Speed and was from Franklin Co. If memory serves me right Charles Speed may have been from Granville Co.

TRN - 10/08/11 - 19:15

TRN, Your right, I won't sooooo far off, except for the Senator Speed part..But the details I won't sure about.. Didn't the state develop the Statewide Rescue and Hospital Radio Channels under Speeds direction??

Galax,VA - 10/08/11 - 21:13

Galax, I am not sure, I do remember that 280 and 340 has been around for a while. The State Rescue association had that old Dodge Command post that had 280 in it.

TRN - 10/08/11 - 23:20

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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 History

10/05/11 30 W, 1 I - + 8 - 2

This one should be easy enough to identify. Where's the camera pointed, are those buildings still there, and what are some stories of that era?
Click to enlarge:



Beacon Ambulance , not sure where tho.

T.Loy - 10/05/11 - 22:48

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

Origins of Rural Fire District Names?

10/06/11 250 W - + 3 - 4

As suggested by a reader, what's the history of Wake County's rural fire district names? Specifically, those rural districts outside municipalities, which are named differently than the town. Such as Zebulon (municipal) and Wakelon (rural) fire districts. Why are they named differently? That's because the municipal and rural districts are separately graded, and thus listed on insurance documents as separate districts. Below are the municipal/rural districts in/around the towns of Wake County. Perhaps readers can fill in the blanks. Readers are also welcome to tell about such differences in surrounding counties.

- Apex
Rural district named Hipex
Origin: ?
- Cary
Rural district named Yrac
Origin: Yrac is Cary spelled backwards. District recently renamed Cary Suburban.
- Fuquay-Varina
Rural district named Furina.
Origin: Shortened version of both names.
- Garner
Rural districts named St. Marys (Station 1), Panther Branch (Station 2)
Origin: Named for the townships they resided within. Districts recently merged and renamed Garner Suburban.
- Holly Springs
Rural district named Holly Springs Rural.
- Knightdale
Rural district named Alert.
Origin: ?
- Morrisville
Rural district named Morrisville Rural.
- Rolesville
Rural district named Rolesville Rural.
- Wake Forest
Rural district named Wakette.
Origin: ?
- Wendell
Rural district named Wendell-Holmes
Origin: Named after Oliver Wendell Holmes, for whom the town was named.
- Zebulon
Rural district named Wakelon.
Origin: Shortened version of Zebulon and Wakefield, the latter a community north of Zebulon. Wakelon is the name of a historic school building north of town, built in 1908.

Johnston County municipal/rural district names:

Benson/Banner
Bethany/Shoeheel
Clayton/Claytex
Cleveland/McLemore
Four Oaks/Wynn
Kenly/Beulah
Pine Level/Pi-Le
Princeton/Boon Hill
Selma/Selma Rural
Smithfield/Smithfield Rural

Legeros - 10/06/11 - 18:34

On Wakelon (Zebulon), the name is derived from the Wakefield and Zebulon communities. It was first used (as far as I know) for the school which was constructed between the two communities to serve them both.

During my tenure with the county, we dealt with these names quite a bit. I recall when Garner's Saint Mary's and Panther Branch districts were being combined into a single district. Many departments had used the "Rural" designation as the county portion; however, it was determined that the word "rural" was no longer appropriate. With than "Garner Suburban" was created in lieu of "Garner Rural". Same eventually held true for "Cary Suburban". Some of these districts included their municipal counterpart, until OSFM preferred they be split in the 1990's. I think Rolesville was the last one split.

At the county level, insurance companies are often confused by these because residents often know their fire department name, but not their district name (when different).

Zeb101 ([Email](#)) - 10/06/11 - 21:45

I guess clearing up the confusion is why some departments actually put their district name on their trucks. I know some in our area run the district name and department name on apparatus.

Zeb101 - 10/06/11 - 21:52

Thanks Chris. I had forgotten about Panther Branch, and updated my posting. Wake County is divided into 20 townships, notes Wikipedia: Bartons Creek, Buckhorn, Cary, Cedar Fork, Holly Springs, House Creek, Leesville, Little River, Marks Creek, Meredith, Middle Creek, Neuse, New Light, Panther Branch, Raleigh, St. Mary's, St. Matthew's, Swift Creek, Wake Forest, and White Oak. Here's a map:

<http://www.wakegov.com/NR/rdonlyres/57A8..>

What the heck is a township? It's a small geographic area that range in size from 6 to 54 square miles, and used in three ways: survey township (for deeds and grants), civil township (unit of government), charter township (unit of government only in Michigan).

Legeros - 10/06/11 - 22:06

I have been told that the "Hipex" name was a derivative of Apex, which allegedly got its name from being the highest point (above sea level) on what was then the Seaboard Air Line Railroad (Highest point along the railroad in aPEX). Makes as good of sense than any other reason.

DJ - 10/12/15 - 17:20

DJ, that probably also explains their motto of "the peak of good living" as well.

Billy Bob - 10/12/15 - 19:56

Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

Falls Fire Department Truck or Treat, Saturday, Oct. 29

10/07/11 126 W - + 6 - 0

Here's the second Halloween-themed fire department event that we've come across, after [Antioch's haunted fire station](#) in Granville County. The Falls Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary is sponsoring a "Truck or Treat" on Saturday, October 29, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The location is Falls Baptist Church at [9700 Fonville Road](#), Wake Forest.

They've planned a variety of activities: games, face painting, arts and crafts, a bake sale, a cup cake walk, and a raffle. Come learn about fire safety, or have your picture taken on a fire truck. There's also "truck or treating" with fire trucks. Come dressed in a costume! This is a free event. See more information on their [Facebook event page](#). Boo.

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.

Public Education / Looking Inside MFD

10/07/11 224 W - + 6 - 4

Was watching these two videos this week, which had me thinking about public education. This being the week before Fire Prevention Week, most departments are preparing for a wave of visitors. They'll be conducting safety days, open houses, store events, mall displays, and more. Fire safety is of course the primary message.

But there's also the need to educate about the role of the fire service. What does your fire department do? Why do they do what they do? What tools and resources are used to save lives, and why are those important?

In these turbulent economic times, such communication and education is probably paramount. But the business of fire service marketing is, it seems in general, a pretty low priority on the totem pole. Heck, many probably confusing marketing (e.g. promotion) with boasting (e.g. glorifying). Very different animals. Very different purposes.

Food for thought. Consider that a preliminary pontification. Meanwhile, check out a pair of videos produced by Milwaukee University that showcase the Milwaukee Fire Department. The two clips total about 26 minutes. They take viewers inside the station, for a tour of apparatus, equipment, and facilities. The intended audience appears to be college students, or perhaps both students and faculty. Very interesting. (As for **historic** Milwaukee engine houses, see Mr. Blogger's [photos from last month.](#))

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.

Rent Old Station 4

10/08/11 201 W, 2 I - + 9 - 3

Raleigh's second Fire Station 4 at 2913 Wake Forest Road is available for leasing. [Mikels and Jones Properties](#) lists the structure as an office building with 3,984 square-feet. The rent is \$12.00 per square foot, which means \$47,808 per lease period. What's that, monthly?

Station 4 opened at that location on April 12, 1963. It had relocated from 505 Jefferson Street, where Engine 4 had operated since June 15, 1926. The Wake Forest Road station cost \$63,000 to build. It was one of three new stations opened that spring. Among the unique features was a sign and warning lights strung across Six Forks Road.

It was relocated to 121 Northway Court on June 24, 1993. The building was then used as a Career Development Center, and included an office for the Haz-Mat Coordinator. Those closed/were moved on April 1, 1997. [Read more history of Station 4.](#)

The building was occupied by a software company from 1997 until maybe late last year. Signs for leasing have been posted for several months now. And for a number of months, a dumpster was parked outside. Below is a floor plan, from a flyer advertising the property. If only those renovated walls could talk. Imagine the stories they'd tell... Click to enlarge, or click to [view the PDF flyer](#):







OFFICE FOR LEASE

Mikels & Jones Properties
"The Right Move For Your Business"

3901 Barrett Drive, Suite 102
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609

Phone: 919-781-9998
Mobile: 919-271-6500
Fax: 919-781-9197
Email: jwilliamson@properties.com

2913 Wake Forest Road



- Free standing building
- 3,984 SF available
- 0.81 Acres
- Year Built: 1963
- Former Fire station
- Best suited for Office, Retail, Office/Flex, Government or Athletic Facility
- Zoning: CUD O & I-1

Lease Rate: \$12.00 psf NNN
For More Information
Contact: Julian Williamson

Kewwwwwwwl spot for a FULLY STAFFED heavy rescue.....long term lease agreement?

RescueOne - 10/08/11 - 23:52

Raleigh needs another inside the belt line station. They could house a fully staffed Heavy rescue company and an Engine Company. If the City put E13 out at Station 29 as E-29, then this new, old station could be numbered station 13. The apparatus could be something Similar to Durham's Technical Rescue team With a big box truck and a quint Stationed there.

charlie - 10/09/11 - 02:36

NO QUINT CONCEPT HERE! Not enough area to park behind the station because the lot is shaped like a wedge/triangle, only one truck could be stationed there if they got it.

ConfusedFiretruck - 10/09/11 - 02:50

Well is parking is a factor, then place a fully staffed heavy rescue Company at that station.

Charlie - 10/09/11 - 15:28

and as far as quints go, Raleigh Ladder 1 is a quint. It started out as Engine 23.

charlie - 10/09/11 - 15:35

Listed are the "quints" at RFD: L1, L2, L3, L4, L5, L6, L7, L8, and the reserve LaFrance mid-mount. (...therefore all of the current "front line" ladder trucks are quints – and that's actually all that has been purchased since 1999).

A.C. Rich - 10/09/11 - 20:04

The station didn't work then so why would it work now? Parking, bay door height, water run-off, and D-side moisture (mold) are major issues that would need to be addressed. If it were possible to get those issues resolved you'd still have to figure out a way to get apparatus out of and back into the station. Flashing red lights that were activated by a push-button mounted in the watch room were installed over Wake Forest rd. They helped very little as most cars never stopped for them (ask anyone assigned to #8 if they ever use their flashing red lights.) and still didn't address the issue of getting the apparatus back into the station. When I was assigned to the station if we were returning from a call south of the station a lot of the time we'd have to pass the station and U-turn at Wake Towne dr. because traffic would be backed up from the

intersection. If the cars let us cross we still didn't have enough room to turn out to back in since there was no turn-around pad. It was proposed the only real fix was to install a remote-operated traffic signal (actual stoplight) controlled from the station and apparatus to actually stop the traffic. NCDOT wouldn't allow the installation since it was deemed to close to the intersection. I had heard the ISO made a recommendation of a fire station in that vicinity due to population density but I just don't see one ever being built due to the proximity of #9 & #11.

Rescue Ranger - 10/09/11 - 21:21

...as Mike would say: history is important!

A.C. Rich - 10/09/11 - 22:06

A quint concept is something completely different than riding a Ladder truck which happens to have a pump, tank and aerial ladder. For the definition of a quint concept, see City of Richmond, VA.

QuintsSquints - 10/10/11 - 16:02

Another word for quint concept is "problems."

A.C. Rich - 10/10/11 - 17:38

I believe you are really smart A.C. I'm taking it that Quints at RFD is a problem and not other departments?

911 - 10/10/11 - 18:19

Charlie, in order for the city to start a new rescue company they would have to throw out the current plans that the fire chief has to REMOVE a rescue company. In a city that only has 3 this is one of the biggest mistakes I've heard. Quints work when they are placed in service somewhere that knows how to use them properly and would require a flexible crew that would be able to function as both an engine and a truck company.

observation - 10/11/11 - 02:08

i think having 2 three person rescue trucks would be better than having one Heavy Rescue truck. as far as quints go, Durham's E7 and E16 are quints, Bethesda's E421 is a quint, and Burlington's E5 is a quint as well. So quints do work in some areas in this state.

charlie - 10/11/11 - 02:24

Quints are great – improved capability... I ride one... love it (personally, all ladder trucks should be quints)! As Mr/Ms QuintsSquints stated above, there are differences – (1) the truck's design = QUINT; and/or (2) the organizational service intention = QUINT CONCEPT. The "quint concept" of service delivery (as with all initiatives) will create issues if not well planned, however the program may work well in other circumstances. The decision is truly organizationally dependent based on the outcome goals determined. So, what would or could the outcome goal(s) be... improved service delivery, a reduction of costs, or maybe even both? Those three options alone will conjure up a vast series of value based individual perspectives. One example is a reduction in staffing and may actually be the greater impetus for a larger city's decision to embark on the organizational change (e.g. Richmond) – and as we all know, many jurisdictions are forced to reduce due to the economy. In contrast, a smaller jurisdiction may implement the planned change as their organization is expanding with much less negative impact. There are various perspectives... I am not a strong proponent of the quint concept in a larger city, but it can certainly work if valued with the proper intentions, implemented properly, and procedurally controlled after implementation. One may simply search the internet and draw their own conclusions.

A.C. Rich - 10/11/11 - 14:28

A.C is correct in saying there is two different issues being discussed here. You can have a "quint" truck without it being used as in a quint concept. Just because the truck is a quint does not mean it is being used as a quint. Almost, if not all ladder trucks are quints now a days. Morrisville has studied and decided to implement the Quint Concept. This is being done for a few reasons. Morrisville currently runs every truck with four people, with that being the minimum on their ladder truck (which is a quint). They currently have an ISO rating of 3 and would like to get it to 1. To do so they would need to add a bunch of people. So to save money and improve their ISO rating, they have decided to go to the quint concept. This can be done by adding a quint at each of their stations staffed with six people along with a squad staffed with two people to run medical calls and other request for service type calls. This means instead of adding 10 people per shift, they can add 5 and get the same result. Morrisville also just received accreditation and that was one of the things the accreditation committee thought was a great idea. Morrisville also is not growing out, just up. I am not sure how well it would work in a large department though. Just food for thought.

Spanky - 10/11/11 - 14:49

Charleston had "ISO CLASS 1" on every single piece of equipment. ISO has nothing to do with your FD's ability to fight fire. The people I know from RIchmond, wish they were a traditional FD. Once you admit you can do more with less (switching to a quint concept), you'll never be able to switch back, especially with the state of the economy these days. I agree with AC, QUINT CONCEPT = problems. A dude I know in Louisiana

works for an FD that has a class 1, they run one guy on every truck. Keep running your department based on ISO ratings!

ISOSCHMISO - 10/11/11 - 22:48

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

New Morrisville Fire Station 1

10/08/11 37 W, 1 I - + 6 - 8

Looks like the new fire station is nearing completion. Location is 200 block of Town Hall Drive. Building is three-bays with 13,000 square-feet. Groundbreaking was 13 months ago. Here's [some earlier information](#). Click to enlarge:



nice looking house! I like the arched doorways, very traditional!

shevais - 10/08/11 - 23:06

Looking good Morrisville! Congrats to the town, its citizens, and to the department!

A.C. Rich - 10/09/11 - 20:49

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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'?

Old Orange County Rescue Unit

10/08/11 53 W, 1 I - + 5 - 3

Saw this truck today in Creedmoor, sitting behind the fire station. Chassis is International, wonder who built the body? Formerly served Orange County Rescue Squad, and now owned by CFD. And that's the town's fire siren on the water town base, in the background. Click to enlarge:



I'm sure someone will know for sure but it looks a bit like a Hackney body

Mike - 10/09/11 - 10:09

That was my thought, but the body striping looks like E-One.

Legeros - 10/09/11 - 10:10

Don't know the age of it or whether it's been refitted, but Hackney didn't get into the game until the early-to mid-90s. And from seeing all the product out there that Hackney has (I used to live in Washington, where Hackney is), there's a lot that tells me that it's not, unless it's an OLD refitted beverage truck. Other manufacturers of drink trucks are also in the game, and they all seem to use somewhat similar construction methods.

Duda ([Email](#)) - 10/10/11 - 09:51

I have it as OC Squad 268, a 1983 International. Didn't have the body info though.

lee - 10/10/11 - 13:14

The International Squad Truck was bought by Orange Rural Fire Department in Orange County in the mid 90's. The truck was repainted red and used as an air and light unit until the early 2000's when it was sold to Orange County Rescue. Orange County Rescue sold it and some Hurst equipment to Creedmoor Fire.

Prior to becoming property of Orange Rural, it was a bottled water transport truck in Boston, Ma.

The cab was replaced due to rust. The body is a Hackney.

Jeff Cabe ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/24/15 - 08:56

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.

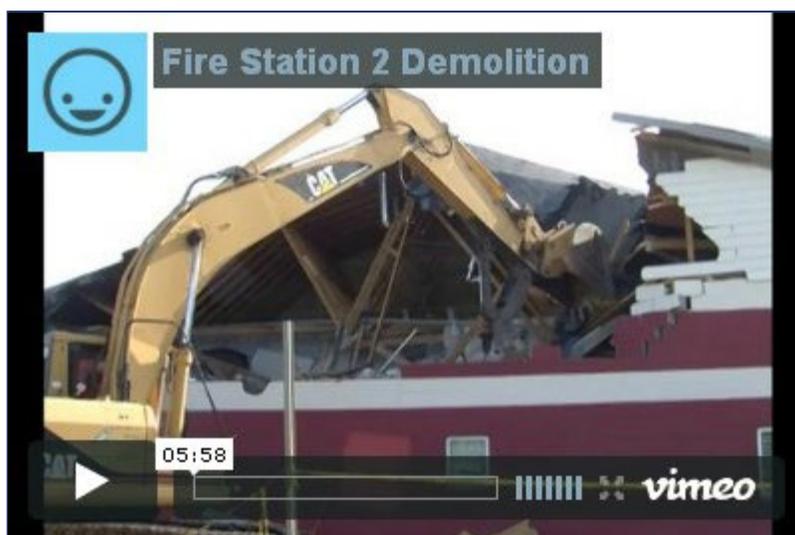
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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.

Holly Springs Station 2 - Photos, Demolition Video

10/09/11 122 W, 2 I - + 3 - 3

Yesterday's wanderings included a short stop at Holly Springs Fire Station 2, presently occupying a pair of temporary structures at 1140 Avent Ferry Road. The original 1972 building was damaged beyond repair by the severe weather and tornado of April 16. Here's a [blog post about that](#). The station was demolished, land beside the lot was rented, and two temporary structures were added. A permanent replacement station should be ready by the spring, notes [this Holly Springs news page](#). Station 2 houses an engine and a brush truck. Below is a picture of the station today-- well, yesterday-- as well as a video of the demolition from April. See more [photos from yesterday](#), or click to watch the video:



Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Yes

No

/ [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.

Fuquay Springs Engine 1

10/09/11 416 W, 6 I - + 9 - 2

This vintage beauty was parked in front of the Fuquay-Varina Fire Department yesterday for the occasion of their open house. That was held at Station 1, located smack downtown. The building was recently renovated, though is still lettered on one side "Fuquay-Varina Fire Departments," plural. That's a reference to when both a town and rural fire department operated from the same building. Heck, maybe they're still separate entities on paper.

Fuquay-Varina was once two towns: Fuquay Springs, renamed from Sippihaw in 1902 and incorporated in 1909, and Varina, which opened a post office in 1880. Can't find an incorporation date for the latter, however. The towns maintained separate identities and post offices until 1963, when a great group hug created the town as named today.

Fuquay Springs had a fire department, and the pictured engine, a 1945 Mack Type 45 pumper, was purchased in 1946. This followed a major fire on March 7 of that year that burned the town's main block. Angier, Apex, Dunn, Lillington, and Raleigh came to assist with that one. Town officials ordered an immediate upgrade of their firefighting capabilities.

What about the early history of both Fuquay Springs FD and Varina FD? That one's a toughie, and some years past the point that Yours Truly was conducting his research in that area. My documented data is [contained in this timeline](#), but it's missing information for the 1920s. The [department's history page](#) cites 1925 as the origin year. More research is definitely needed.¹ Maybe it's already been done. Meanwhile, click to enlarge the below photos, or [see more shots](#) from yesterday's event.



¹Based on the age of both towns, the progress of fire protection probably went something like this: fire equipment was privately or municipally obtained at some early point in each town's history. At a later time, a formally organized fire company or fire department was established. Maybe in just one town, maybe in both. (If memory serves, I have seen at least one reference to a Varina FD in some old article, somewhere. Don't remember where.) Membership and effectiveness of the fire departments(s) probably waxed and waned. Then there'd be a big fire, and things would be improved. When the rural department was created in 1954, it bore the name Fuquay-Varina. The towns were still nine years away from merger. Does that suggest that a joint Fuquay-Varina Fire Department, based in and likely funded by both towns, was already in operation? Probably, and that's what my old research notes seem to indicate.

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.

Stop, Drop, and Roll

10/09/11 77 W, 1 I - + 3 - 4

'Tis a good weekend for community involvement, with Fire Prevention Week starting today. Among yesterday's events was Safety Day in Cary, at Bond Park, and with activities that included a kid's firefighter combat challenge. Below is the "stop, drop, and roll" phase of same. And the entry form that the assisting firefighter is holding doesn't even get bent! [See more photos from the event.](#)



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.

Vehicle Versus Coffee Shop

10/09/11 137 W, 1 I - + 5 - 3

One of the day's more unusual incidents occurred about 9:45 a.m. at 6282 Glenwood Avenue, when a sport utility vehicle crashed through the front door of a Starbucks store. As this [WRAL story notes](#), the vehicle crushed an outdoor table before entering the store. The vehicle was occupied by one person. There were no injuries. (The building, though, was... beamed.) Ladder 3 and EMS 6 were the first units on scene. We'll post a few photos later.

The WRAL story also notes that a city committee was recently approached, asking for more safety measures for curbside restaurant seating. It was initiated by friends of the victims of the September 4 vehicle-versus-building accident at Cameron Village. The committee declined to take action. Wonder what the stats are city- and county-wide, for vehicles and buildings? Click to enlarge:



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

Greensboro Fire Captain Dies After Marathon (updated)

10/10/11 175 W, 1 I - + 5 - 5

From [this WRAL report](#) and [this WXII story](#) and this [Chicago Sun-Times story](#), Greensboro Fire Department Captain William Caviness, 35, died today after collapsing during the Chicago Marathon. He was running with his brother to raise money to help burn victims, and collapsed on the course about 500 yards from the finish line. Medical personnel were able to restore his pulse, report the reports, but he died one hour and 45 minutes later. He collapsed at 10:39 a.m. at 1200 S. Indiana Avenue, and was pronounced dead at 12:03 p.m. at Mercy Hospital and Medical Center. The cause of death has not been determined.

Monday update: [The Greensboro News & Record](#) this morning provides more information. Caviness, described as a skilled distance runner, was running for the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Burn Foundation. He had raised more than \$2,400 for the cause. He was a captain on Engine 14. His brother Sean is also a firefighter. Capt. Caviness leaves behind a wife and two children.



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

Weekend Photo Update

10/10/11 73 W - + 7 - 5

Here are the photos posted or pending from Legeros and Lee, from the assorted events we attended on Saturday or Sunday. More events this week and next weekend. [See that list.](#)

- Bay Leaf FD Open House - pending
- [Cary FD Safety Day](#)
- [Creedmoor FD Parade](#) (Lee)
- Creedmoor FD Parade (Legeros) - pending
- [Fairview FD Open House](#)
- [Fuquay-Varina Open House](#)
- [Morrisville FD Fire Prevention Day](#)
- [Parkwood FD Barbecue](#)
- [Saturday Samples](#)

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.

Zebulon Night Out - Canceled

10/10/11 47 W - + 6 - 2

Tomorrow night's event-- Zebulon Night Out at the Municipal Complex on Tuesday, October 11-- has been canceled. Be advised. There is no word on any rescheduling, or if we'll be waiting until next year. Our [blog schedule of events](#) has been updated.

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.

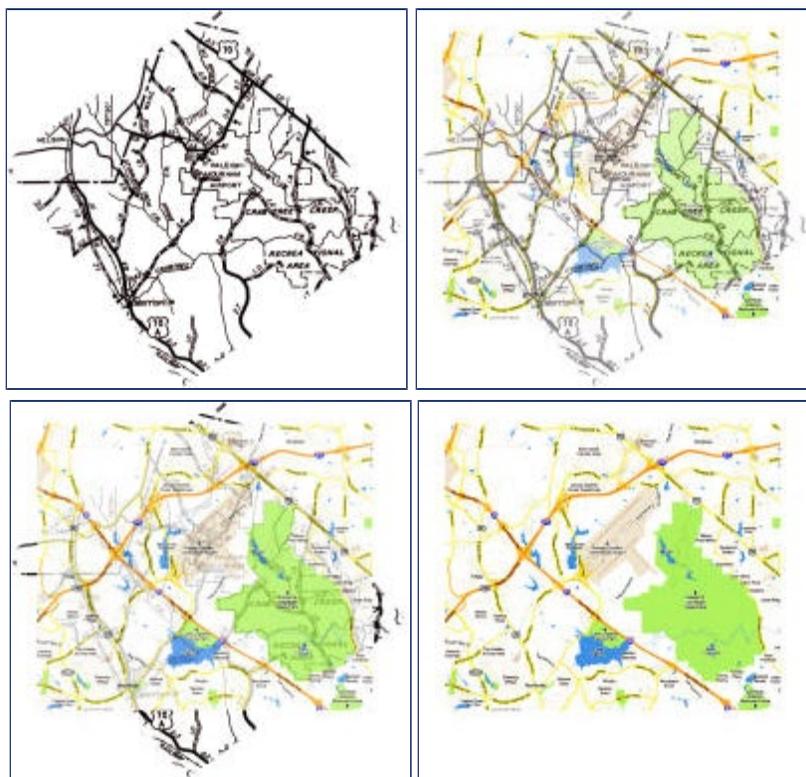
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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.

What Did The Airport Area Look Like Back When?

10/10/11 100 W, 4 I - + 7 - 4

In particular, what was the configuration of the roads and highways around Raleigh-Durham Airport, back before Interstate 40 was built? Here's a stab at answering that question. Here are two maps, one from 1953 (via [North Carolina Maps](#)) and one from 2011 (via Google maps). Four layers, with two levels of overlay. Kinda sorta works for now. Maybe someone has a map of the airport area from back in the day? Or can recall what the roads were, or even some of the buildings that were there? Click **once or twice** to enlarge:



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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

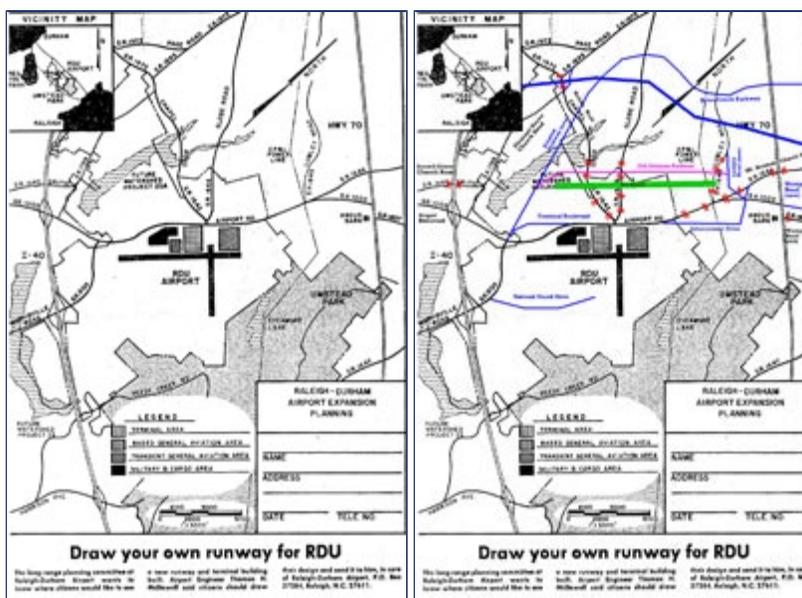
Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an

Updated: Draw Your Own Runway for RDU, 1977

10/11/11 161 W, 2 I - + 8 - 2

Here's another look at the roads around the airport, from the *Raleigh Times* on August 17, 1977. It reads "The long-range planning committee of Raleigh-Durham Airport wants to know where citizens would like to see a new runway and terminal building built. Airport Engineer Thomas H. McDowell said citizens should draw their design and send it to him, in care of Raleigh-Durham Airport, P.O. Box 27284, Raleigh, N.C., 27611." Neato.

Evening update. Here's a second version of this diagram, with additional graphics noting which roads have since been closed, changed, or added. Things were moved around after the third runway was built, then really rearranged after Interstate 540 was built. Mind you, the engineers still botched the Lumley / Westgate / Highway 70 / Interstate 540 exchange. Who thought that one up, requiring a stoplight between exiting 70 and entering 540? Thanks to the gang at the airport fire station for clarifying a few details. Click **once or twice** to enlarge:



And things will get even more botched up once the planned 4th (3rd parallel) runway is built.

RescueRanger - 10/12/11 - 21:54

To add on to your comment about 540/70/Lumley/Westgate, this was the same group of engineers that thought 1 lane was enough to exit from 540 onto 40. Thankfully THAT debacle has since been fixed

cpd5675 - 10/17/11 - 01:18

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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Raleigh-Durham Airport Fire Department, 1977

10/11/11 192 W, 1 I - + 6 - 6

And we can't talk about the airport's history without also talking about the airport fire department's history. Here's a nifty picture from June 1, 1977, from the *Raleigh Times*. The fire station is the twice-prior location from today, since moved into airport multi-purpose building #3 (in 1980) and then into the present location on Rescue Court (in 1986).

The siren on the station summoned the firefighters, who worked part-time with other duties that included working as ramp personnel. The department was revamped that year, with the first full-time staffing starting in the fall of 1997. That's Fire Chief Terry Edmundson pictured, formerly Fire Chief of the Cary Fire Department. [Read that history.](#)

The trucks from left to right: 1973 Walter CB3000 as (3000/500, dual 750 GPM pumps), 1959 Walter Class 1500 ([see close-shots](#) of a 1958 model used in Minneapolis), 1969 International/Ansul Magnum 480 (1350 pounds Purple-K, 200 gallons light water), 1946 International/Bean pumper (500 GPM, ex-military crash truck from the airport's Army airfield days). Wonder where they are today! [See photos of those trucks.](#) And Walter trucks are singular, not plural. Need to correct the labels on my web pages. Memo to self: Do that. Click to enlarge:



Raleigh Times photo

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Garner's New Engine 3

10/11/11 71 W, 1 I - + 9 - 0

The Garner Fire Department took delivery yesterday of a 2011 Pierce Saber pumper and top-mounted no less! How many top-mounts are serving in Wake County currently? (But will we ever see *enclosed* top-mounts, like they use in Minnesota? Talk about high cabs! Anyway...) The truck replaces a 2007 Pierce Contender, which will replace Engine 4 at Station 4. Lee Wilson has already shot some shots. [See his photos.](#)



Lee Wilson photo

MIKE I BELIEVE ONLY HOLLY SPRINGS AND GARNER ARE STILL BUYING TOP MOUNT PUMPS. ANY OTHERS?

JOSHFD - 10/11/11 - 18:28

Bay Leaf also.

Northside - 10/11/11 - 20:32

Griffith FD (Sta. 15) in Forsyth Co. has a Top-mount enclosed cab Pierce, if my memory serves me correct...

Joffre - 10/12/11 - 20:14

The Wallburg FD in Davidson County has two fully enclosed top mount pumpers unless I am mistaken. Technology they have used for a number of years.

Curtis Teague ([Email](#)) - 10/12/11 - 22:17

How about that! Photos from the WFD site, <http://www.wallburgfire.com/wallburg/app..>

Legeros - 10/12/11 - 22:22

wasn't Durham Highway's E-One an enclosed top mount?

shevais - 10/13/11 - 00:38

Are you referring to the one currently serving as Pumper 2? If so, no sir, it is not a top mount pump nor enclosed. I can see where you might think it is because that cab is like 20 feet tall, Michael Jordan can comfortably stand in the back!

Highway - 10/13/11 - 10:12

Old eight-ball tanker was a Darley with a top mount pump, not enclosed

X-dh - 10/13/11 - 15:01

Here's Griffith's apparatus from their site: <http://www.griffithfire.com/equipment.ht..>

Joffre - 10/13/11 - 16:44

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.

Bay Leaf Fire Department Coming Soon

10/11/11 125 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

This architectural rendering was displayed Sunday during Bay Leaf Fire Department's open house at Station 1. That's the planned reconstruction of their 28-year old station. The architect is Stewart Cooper Newell. [The architect's web site notes](#) that building will include an outdoor deck that doubles as a training platform, six individual sleeping rooms, and four apparatus bays.

Groundbreaking for the \$3.6 million facility is planned for the spring, as was noted in the [last Fire Commission meeting](#), with a one-year construction period. Get ready for that rarest of animals in Wake County, a fire station with fire poles! (The others are Raleigh 1, 3, 6; Apex 3, 4; planned Cary 8. Did we miss any?) [See more photos](#) from the Sunday open house. Click to enlarge:



Apex 4 has a pole?

PGtruckie ([Email](#)) - 10/11/11 - 23:38

Only Apex Station 3 has a pole.

Jeff - 10/11/11 - 23:49

Thanks for the correction. I was adding a pole to my memories of the station's second floor storage space, <http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/2009-0..>

Legeros - 10/12/11 - 07:26

Why only 4 bays? What about the rest of the apparatus, boats?

NEEDED? - 10/12/11 - 08:56

Why isn't their planned station five-bays, six-bays, seven-bays, eight? Lot size isn't large enough for a bigger building footprint, for starters. Hey, but that's a great trivia question! How many five- or six-bay stations have been built around the Carolinas?

Legeros - 10/12/11 - 09:33

Wake Forest #1 has 6, both Wake-New Hope houses have 5, Bay Leaf #3 has what 8?, Apex #1 has 7, Hopkins has 5, Wendell #1 has 5, Rolesville has 6, Fuquay #1 has 5, Garner #2 has 5.

In Harnett County, Northwest Harnett has 6 (beautiful house BTW), Summerville has 5, Angier has 6, Benson has 6

I'm sure there's others I can't remember off the top of my head...

shevais - 10/12/11 - 10:17

Mike's link to the Fire Commission presentation (above) explains the restrictions on the land and the required choices/limitations for construction.

A.C. Rich - 10/12/11 - 10:21

Is this new station got drive through because some of the listed stations above are not drive through bays.

911 - 10/12/11 - 13:20

Anyone else think that there might be a station or two that could use replacement/relocation a little more than Bay Leaf? I appreciate that Falls is merging with WFFD and will eventually lose their station but they could probably use a new station, even if moved toward Wake Forest, a little more than Bay Leaf. Just an observation from driving around the county and city.

Dan - 10/12/11 - 19:55

I would tend to agree with Dan. Especially not such an expensive station, \$3.6 million seems like a whole lot for one station for one department. I feel like a more reasonable station could be built for about half of that, and then you could build another station as well.

Brian - 10/12/11 - 20:00

Regarding the bays of Bay Leaf's station, the building is planned with three drive-through bays, and one half-bay. So I guess that makes the thing a seven-bay station, ultimately? This document contains a building diagram on page 13, <http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog..>

Regarding the calculus that computed the project's worthiness, if you will... that'll take someone a little more informed than myself, and who can explain the many factors that came into play. From current and project volumes, to geographic concentration of those calls, to facility limitations/needs of the department, to land use/availability, and more.

Legeros - 10/12/11 - 20:09

Would have been \$600,000 or less had it been a metal building with a brick face like the more economical leaders in the County design. Time to take away the fire commissions checkbook.

Leroy - 10/14/11 - 17:21

All new fire facilities are owned by Wake County and it is their design and specification that is used. The Fire Commission has nothing to do with a "check book" – the check book resides at the county commissioners. See Mike's previous post information on the Fire Commission. It may help with understanding. <http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog..>

A.C. Rich - 10/14/11 - 17:36

Northwest Harnett's station, yes, looks very nice, via the architect's site, http://www.bobbitt.com/projects/fire_res..

Legeros - 10/15/11 - 11:18

I am willing to bet, since the county commissioners deal with money issues. They are getting the such and expensive station because those commissioners live in their district. Why can't you save millions and just add on? Must be nice to have high ups in your pocket!

salterson - 10/15/11 - 12:00

I am entirely satisfied with the logic of the decisions made in regard to this project, as I have observed over the years that it has been underway. Guess we'll close this topic for now, and preemptively stop more pot shots. Mail me with concerns. Thanks for reading.

Legeros - 10/15/11 - 12:21

Wilmington Engine 4 in Action, Circa 1910

10/12/11 233 W, 1 I - + 5 - 4

Seen for sale on eBay, here's a colorized postcard showing a circa 1910 photo of the Wilmington Fire Department in action. That is, demonstrating its capabilities. What's the make and model of that steamer? Let me think on that one. Wilmington [operated eight of them](#), over the course of their history.



As for context, here's a Sanborn Insurance Map summary of the department in 1915, as compiled for my [Then & Now series of some years ago](#):

- Paid. Three officers. 32 men. Seven horses. Three stations, storage building, and fireboat.
- **Headquarters Fire Station, 16 South 4th Street:** Chief and 18 men. Two combination hose and chemical automobile wagons with 1,200-feet 2 1/2-inch cotton rubber-lined hose each. One first-class Knott steam fire engine. One third-class Button steam fire engine. One hook and ladder truck. One chief's buggy.
- **Station No. 2, corner South 6th and Castle Streets:** 6 men. 2 horses. One two-horse hose wagon with 1000-feet 2 1/2-inch hose.
- **Station No. 3, 602 North 4th Street:** 6 men. 2 horses. One two-horse combination hose wagon with 1200-feet 2 1/2-hose and two three-gallon chemical extinguishers. One third-class Silsby steam fire engine.
- **General storage, 320 Princess Street:** Two hose wagons in reserve. One double-tank chemical engine in reserve, 50 gallons each.
- **Fireboat Atlantic, Chestnut Street:** 3 men. Speed 10 miles per hour. American LaFrance pump, capacity 1,400 gallons per minute and driven by 125 HP gasoline engine. 600-feet 2 1/2-inch hose.
- Gamewell fire alarm system, 57 boxes. Population 32,000.

Name: (real name)

Remember personal info?

National Fire Heritage Center Dedication, October 14

10/12/11 241 W, 1 I - + 6 - 4

In addition to the [National Fallen Firefighters Memorial events](#) this weekend in Emmitsburg, Maryland, another important event is also happening in town: the dedication ceremony of the National Fire Heritage Center. The date and time is Friday, October 14, at 1:00 p.m. The location is 300 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD. That's the rear of the building that houses the Frederick County Fire/Rescue Museum and Preservation Society, where the NFHC is currently co-located.

[This Firefighter Nation article](#) tells more: "Modeled after the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, PA, the NFHC will original important work by writers; published literature on the fire service, the insurance industry and research laboratories; seminal publications; recorded oral histories of individuals; and historic artifacts." Both scholars and the general public will have access to the "only institution that collects and archives the institutional history of the fire service and allied professions."

The National Fire Heritage Center will be open to the public every Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Except holidays, that is. Their web site tells more, at <http://www.nationalfireheritagecenter.org>. This Hawaiian shirt-wearing historian is absolutely looking forward to both a visit, and future participation. They're doing big-time what we're doing small-time. Preserving history, one memory at a time. Give me another decade at least and I will have made a decent dent.



I've been invited to go next year!

lee - 10/13/11 - 00:18

This will be the 4th year in a row that members from Wake & District will playing with the massed pipe band to help honor our fallen.

Mike - 10/13/11 - 10:52

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Ford Not Chevy

10/12/11 52 W, 1 I - + 9 - 1

This is a reminder to update my records and web pages, to reflect that the airport's 1952 pick-up truck with a skid-mounted, dual-agent system was a Ford and not a Chevy. Thanks Chad, for catching. Bet that was a beautiful shade of red... Click to enlarge:



Durham Herald photo

Later on this dual agent unit was mounted in a trailer (one of those small, military types. For a couple of weeks it was mounted in a 1966 Chevy pick-up, but due to overloading it was moved back to the trailer. I can't remember what we ever did with it. We had a different dual agent unit in the 1957 Chevy one-ton pick-up when I started at the airport that was moved to the 1980 Chevy K30. I don't know about the one pictured, but the one that was on the 1957/1980 Chevy trucks was never discharged while I was there.

They were powered by a set of nitrogen (I think that's right) filled tanks and worked like a fire extinguisher, basically. Charge the system, discharge the agent, then refill/recharge.

DJ - 10/13/11 - 08:15

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Early History of Fuquay-Varina Fire Department

10/12/11 388 W - + 6 - 3

Postscript to my posting about [Fuquay Springs Engine 1](#), here are some excerpts from materials found in my records. Let's just call the man cave the Hall of History, shall with? Fred A. Olds would be proud.

News & Observer

- August 9, 1931 - Fire protection equipment described as "A chemical truck, 500 feet of hose, and other apparatus."

Fuquay Springs town minutes

- December 6, 1937 - "...the Town Manager was unanimously authorized to purchase 500 feet of Underwriters hose from the lowest bidder.
- March 7, 1938 - "The committee of Com. Clark and the Town Manager reported the purchase of a 1936 Chevrolet truck chassis for \$207.73 as the basis of a fire truck. Prices had been requested on rebuilt siren. The city of Durham Fire Dept. offered a used fire truck body for \$75.00. However, the town manager reported that he thought that he could obtain a better price through the City Manager of Durham."
- April 4, 1938 - The Town Manager reported on the purchase of the fire truck body from the City of Durham for \$40 and the purchase of a reconditioned 5 HP siren of \$180."
- May 9, 1938 - The Town Manager was authorized to investigate the cost of installing switches to Varina and the central office for turning in fire alarms at those points."

News & Observer - February 2, 1938

Wake Town Forms Fire Department

Fuquay Springs Completes Organization of First Fire Fighting Crew

Fuquay Springs, Feb. 12 - Formal organization of the Fuquay-Varina volunteer fire department took place in the town hall this week with Lee Rowland, chief of the department, presiding over the meeting.

Although the department is just now being organized, it is prepared to fight fires immediately. Several months ago the town purchased a fire truck and other modern firefighting equipment sufficient to take care of the town's needs.

Officers of the department, in addition to Chief Rowland, are S. A. Satterwhite, assistant chief; W. G. Ragan, secretary; and T. L. Cordle, treasurer.

Members of the department are Chief Rowland, John Thomas, W. G. Ragan, W. A. Hamilton, A. A. Tingen, Horton Poe, C. B. Ellis, S. A. Satterwhite, J. L. Kestler, S. L. Rowland, R. K. Rhodes, Woodrow Johson, Jack Riley, and Mr. Clark. Satterwhite, Ragan and Tingen have had previous experience in other cities where they resided before coming to Fuquay.

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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Car Versus Home - Falls of Neuse Road

10/13/11 62 W, 1 I - + 9 - 5

Happened overnight in the 1100 block of Falls of Neuse Road. Single-vehicle accident. [Story from WRAL](#). Seems like this is becoming a trend. Remember our Charlotte readers a year or two ago, noting that they had these a few times a week? That was hard to believe then. Maybe not so now.



WRAL photo

Rather they hit houses than school buses. That seemed to be the trend last school year.

Duda ([Email](#)) - 10/13/11 - 11:31

I'd rather people start paying attention and put the f***ing cell phone down!!! But you're right, that's what seemed to be happening last year.

DJ - 10/13/11 - 13:28

11000 Blk of Falls of Neuse road. Falls 212, Raleigh Rescue 1 (requested), Stony Hill Rescue 26 (dispatched)

correct - 10/13/11 - 17:16

Thanks Stony Hill and Raleigh Rescue 1 B-shift for the assistance.

Marcus - 10/13/11 - 20:06

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Honorable Mention: Best Blog, IAFF 2011 Media Awards

10/13/11 235 W, 2 I - + 9 - 4

We are pleased to announce that the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) awarded this site Honorable Mention in [Best Blog category](#) of the [2011 Media Awards](#). They received 234 entries in this year's contest, now in its eleventh year. The winners will also be published in the September-October 2011 issue of *International Fire Firefighter* magazine.

First place was awarded to [LAFD News and Information](#), published by the Los Angeles Fire Department. Three sites were awarded honorable mention, Sophomoritis in the Fire Service published by Fire Chief Magazine, [Firegeezer - The Digital Day Room](#) published by our good friend Bill Shrumm and Company, and Raleigh/Wake County Firefighting Blog (now named [Legeros Fire Blog](#)) published by moi.

Our entry was submitted on behalf of IAFF Local 548, the Raleigh Professional Fire Fighters Association. Thanks for their support. Congratulations to all the winners, and thank you to our readers. It's your participation that has kept both the conversations and the creative juices flowing.

This is the third IAFF media award for fire service historian, author, and photographer Mike Legeros. He won Honorable Mention for a Best Story on a Web-Based News Site [in 2007](#), and Honorable Mention for Best Fire Service Photo Published on a Web Site [in 2008](#).

October 26 update. Two more awards were won by Mike Legeros. [See this posting](#).

2011 MEDIA AWARDS



Congrats Mike!!! You do a good job, Wake Co and Raleigh are lucky to have guys like you and Lee around. This award just validates those early AM wake up calls you guys make are for good reason.

G-ham ([Web Site](#)) - 10/13/11 - 19:35

It is about time!! You have one of the best fire sites on the net and I am glad you are getting the recognition you deserve!

stretch - 10/13/11 - 22:49

Congratulations pal!!

A.C. Rich - 10/13/11 - 23:20

Congrats Mike

Marcus - 10/14/11 - 02:24

Kudos!

Furey - 10/14/11 - 08:51

Congrats Mike!

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 10/14/11 - 13:07

Congrats Mikey

nbfr vollie - 10/14/11 - 20:20

Congrats!

Mike Ward ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 10/15/11 - 09:47

Congratulations Mike! Your site lets viewers know how hard Firefighters, EMS workers and Law Enforcement work here in the Triangle. Well deserved!

J.A.F.O. - 10/15/11 - 21:01

kudos!

shevais - 10/16/11 - 12:54

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.

Video Fuego Inestable

10/14/11 79 W - + 4 - 3

For your Friday morning enjoyment, here's an extended video clip of truck work from a three-alarm fire Prince George's County, MD. [See this Statter911 posting](#) for more information, including reader comments which are uniformly positive. Interesting observation by one reader about side-mounted versus through-body ladder storage. It does make a difference in access, when other vehicles or objects are parked close! Happy Friday, and remember to leave room for the truck at the building.

It's not what you call it Truck, Ladder, Squad, Engine or Rescue its how you staff it, notice the staffing on truck 12 alone this will save lives "people in side or firefighters" Can't wait till we stop turning the blind eye to staffing and stand up and say this is the min. no less. Hats of to College Park for a nice turnout. Did take some time to put water on the fire but dont know what all the other sides looked like just think what time frame it would have taken a 3 man engine with one left at the pump panel to do the same task. Guess the study done by the IAFF and PGFD did make since glad they are excepting no less. <http://www.iaff.org/10News/042810FireStu..>

R-3 Duck ([Email](#)) - 10/15/11 - 12:07

R-3 PG only requires 3 for the engine and the special services are 4. I can guarantee you this fire was after 3 p.m. because of how many are on the truck. Alot of companies here in P.G. have career guys and some houses have them only 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Currently most of the houses only have 4 paid guys and if the ambulance goes out theres onl 2 for the suppression pieces. We are getting better though now that we have new county commissioners that like the emergency services we can hire to fill spots that should have been filled 3-4 years ago. But this is a typical fire for P.G. the county usally runs 2-3 fires a week in garden apartment buildings throughout the whole county. But good work was made by all the crews operating on this one. The companies you see in the video are 12(college park) and tower 7(riverdale) the second and third due trucks on the first alarm.

PGtruckie ([Email](#)) - 10/16/11 - 03:02

Looks like the Chief took a nasty fall off of Trk.12.. (right at the 10 minute mark)

Galax,VA - 10/16/11 - 19:36

Imagine sending enough units on a first alarm apartment fire and not treating it as a house fire?

TrucksGalore - 10/17/11 - 22:55

Mystery Road

10/14/11 35 W, 1 I - + 3 - 3

Recognize this small section of old road? Hint number one: it's connected to a current road. Hint number two: it's very close to another current road.



Old 64

marcus - 10/15/11 - 05:45

Not Old 64

Legeros - 10/15/11 - 08:53

It is triple oak drive. It runs between pleasant grove church road and I 40 W.

bc - 10/15/11 - 15:06

Correctamundo, and once connected on the other side, say the old maps. Next question, why is there a gate there? Sign says airport property. Seen through the lens of emergency services, one might presume an emergency access route to I-40 for airport vehicles.

Legeros - 10/16/11 - 23:06

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Smooth Operator

10/14/11 63 W, 2 I - + 5 - 4

The big pour was underway today at the Keeter Training Center, as contractors were laying the last of the new drill pads. The project to replace nearly 40 percent of the concrete on the upper parking lot and training area has been underway since late September. [See more photos.](#)



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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Remembering Our Fallen Firefighters

10/14/11 145 W, 5 I - + 7 - 2

As we turn our thoughts this weekend to the fallen members of the fire service and their families and peers for the [National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend](#), let's look back at those who gave all in Raleigh and Wake County. We've lost eight firefighters from five departments from five departments since 1956, in ranks from Firefighter to Asst. Chief, and from causes ranging from motor-vehicle accidents to heart attacks. [Learn more about them.](#)

Herman S. Jones

Raleigh Fire Department
January 22, 2008



Larry W. Fanning

Garner Fire Department
August 2, 2006



Todd A. Blanchard

Eastern Wake Fire Department
July 14, 2005



Patrick J. Daughtery

Garner Fire Department
April 7, 1993

Norwood C. Massengill

Fairgrounds Fire Department
February 10, 1971

Paul. A. Mimms

Raleigh Fire Department
April 20, 1965



Vernon L. Thompson

Cary Fire Department
June 16, 1960

Vernon J. Smith

Raleigh Fire Department
March 10, 1956



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'?

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

National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend

10/15/11 346 W, 1 I - + 5 - 3

Coverage of this year's memorial weekend event is available across multiple digital channels, including streaming video, photo slideshows, Twitter and Facebook, and a VueTOO page with consolidated content. Here's the [official memorial weekend site](#) with links to the above and more. The 30th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend is being held at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD. The names of 89 firefighters who died in the line of duty are being honored, and their names added to the memorial. They include 72 firefighters who died this year. The memorial, established in 1981, contains the names of over 3,500 firefighters.

The name of one North Carolina firefighter is being added to the memorial this year, Richard A. Miller of the Belmont Fire Department, who died after collapsing during physical fitness training on December 29, 2009. Miller was 24. Here's a [FireNews.net story](#) about him. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's (NFFF) [Roll of Honor](#) contains the names of 102 firefighters from North Carolina who have died in the line of duty since 1981. They also have a project underway to identify and honor fallen firefighters prior to the establishment of the memorial, called [Project Roll Call](#).

North Carolina firefighters who have died in the line of duty are also honored by the [North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Foundation](#). Their database has names and information for 201 line-of-duty deaths dating to 1902. Other web sources for more recent LODD information include this (outdated) [page from the Office of the State Fire Marshal](#), as well as this [web page from FireNews.net](#). For a historical perspective and historical data, here's an [article of mine from some years ago](#), as well as [my database of fallen firefighters](#). The latter was updated earlier this year. That data-- or, rather, the originating research-- has been forwarded to the NFFF, of course, for their Project Roll Call.

And for a local perspective on our fallen members, from Cary, Eastern Wake, Fairgrounds, Garner, and Raleigh fire departments, [see this web page of mine](#), as well as our [prior posting from yesterday](#).



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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Historical Society Mall Display

10/15/11 68 W, 1 I - + 5 - 5

Part of the Raleigh Fire Department's Fire Prevention Week presence at Crabtree Valley Mall. They'll be there today, the last of three days at the mall. Learn more about the Raleigh Fire Museum and the fire department historical society at www.raleighfirehistory.org. We're [also on Facebook](#). See you on November 12, for the next regular scheduled opening of the museum. Click to enlarge:



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.

Mystery Police Vehicle

10/15/11 53 W, 1 I - + 7 - 1

Seen at the old police station (which is the old municipal building) on Hargett Street. What's the thing for? Pulls the bomb disposal trailer? Fifth-wheel hauling of top-secret special operations stuff? Or maybe something more mundane, like a vehicle for large-vehicle driving training?



It tows a trailer that has tons of barricades in it. Nothing too exciting, unfortunately.

rfburns - 10/15/11 - 16:21

Thank you for shattering that short-lived illusion.

Legeros - 10/15/11 - 16:23

The truck arose when we were all "going tractor trailer" in the early 2000's. It's Navy surplus, along with the first "pods" at KTC, a low boy trailer for RPD, and the first large military forklift for RFD. It was kinda interesting teaching some of the guys at RPD how to drive and back that thing!

A.C. Rich - 10/16/11 - 11:05

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

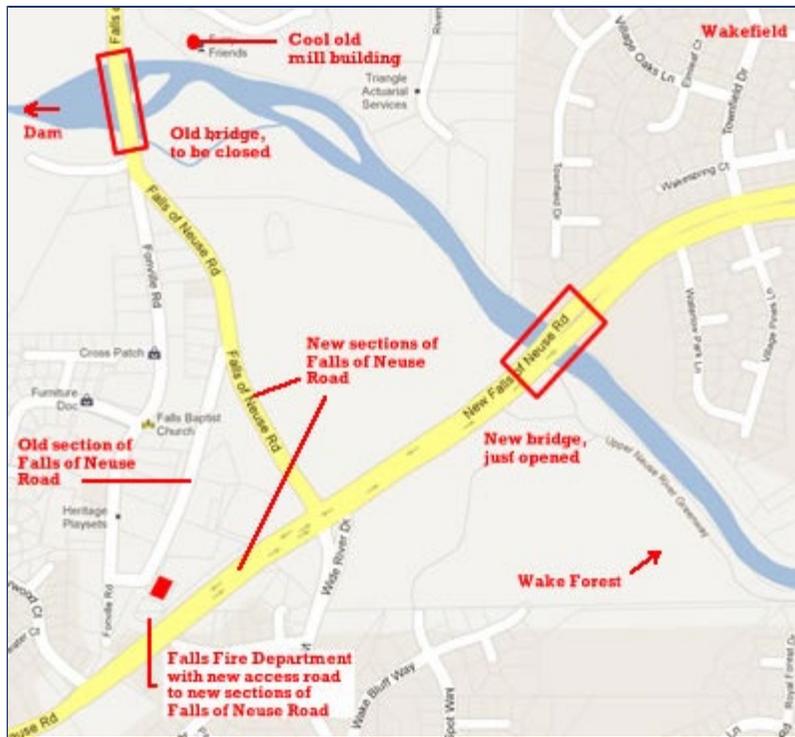
New Falls of Neuse Bridge Opens

10/15/11 270 W, 1 I - + 4 - 4

Bridges actually, plural. Two two-lane spans that connect Falls of Neuse and New Falls of Neuse roads. Here's a [News & Observer story](#) about this morning's opening, which is the first of two phase to remake Falls of Neuse Road. The next phase in the \$25 million project will widen the two-lane road from Raven Ridge Road north to Wakefield. Completion is planned in May 2013. Also in the mix is the planned closure of the older Falls of Neuse Road bridge, just west of the new bridge. It was built in the 1920s. (The dam came decades later, by the way.) The new bridges will shorten travel times for emergency units. Here are some fire station-to-fire station estimates, based on Google Maps. Of course, some routes will also take longer...

	Old Bridge	New Bridge
Station 22 to Station 25 (via Falls of Neuse)	6.7 mi.	~6.2 mi
Station 15 to Station 25 (via Litchford, Falls of Neuse)	8.8 mi.	~7.5 mi.
Falls FD to Station 25	2.5 mi.	~1.6 mi
Falls FD to Wake Forest Station 2	4.6 mi	~3.8 mi.
Falls FD to Wake Forest Station 1	6.4 mi.	~5.6 mi.
Falls FD to Stony Hill Station 1	6.6 mi.	~7.2 mi

Other recent roadway changes have included the alignment of Falls of Neuse Road with New Falls of Neuse Road. This closed a section of Falls of Neuse Road that passed in front of the Falls Fire Department, so a special access road has been built beside the station. Here's a diagram showing everything. Will draw maps for food. Click once or twice to enlarge:



The mutual aid distance to Stony Hill is lengthened somewhat, but I believe the changes benefit the overall. As traffic flow is improved, the response times will be better in many areas (road mileage vs. efficiency).

A.C. Rich - 10/16/11 - 11:18

Updated my chart to include distances from FFD to SHFD #1.

Legeros - 10/16/11 - 11:26

I'm impressed with Google maps. It's impressive that it's already current since the bridge has barely been open for a day. I wonder how much E25's call volume will pick up and how long it will take for CAD to recognize the shorter distance?

RescueRanger - 10/16/11 - 20:49

Oddly, the Google maps directions feature doesn't yet— or didn't yesterday— recognize the completed road that their map shows.

Legeros - 10/16/11 - 21:01

Don't understand how the change on distance is so much greater for Falls than Engine 22 and 25I shouldn't run any difference in calls. This is also a reason why Falls should still be responding into Wakefield as a second engine on structural calls. Look how close they are...its ridiculous. Raleigh needs to come out of a whole and realize that they aren't above county help that will save th money instead of hiring and wasting it when they could save it in a contract. It will take a house burning down for the city to realize their mistake.

Dan - 10/17/11 - 02:03

City contract cancelations. Bay Leaf station reconstruction. Incident command decisions at any given fire. If there's a recurring theme to comments on this blog, it's something like... reaction to executive decision. There seems to be pattern. A decision is announced or demonstrated through action. Then there's a flurry of reaction, and perhaps directly correlated to negative reader reaction. (Is that a true observation of mine? Do we see as many response for praise of decisions? Need to check that.)

If we trafficked in truth here, and tossed facts back and forth at each other, the resulting discussions would probably be fine. But we deal in speculation, in perceived reality, in secondhand information, in best-intentioned armchair opinions, and so forth. (Well, not entirely. I mean, fact-based perspectives are offered from time to time. But it's perhaps more rare than regular.) And all of it too often anonymous, which just raises hackles that much more. There are ways to crack this nut, to provide the most efficient, the most value-added, **and** the most positive-regarded forum for our fire service conservations. And as I discover them, I will certainly share and/or implement. For now, please bear with me as I occasionally remove comments or close topics for discussion.

Legeros - 10/17/11 - 07:41

I was told to look at this blog to see the new distances. I have not looked at this blog in months, possibly a year. The reason? There is rarely any positive feedback or information that can be educational for firefighting any longer. The discussions turn south and always end up negative. I was a frequent looker on this blog when it began. It in my opinion has turned into a forum for people to comment and talk trash behind a fake name. In my opinion, this blog hurts Wake County Fire Services. It could be used as a learning tool. I see there is people on here that have a bunch of experience that can provide insightful, educational information to the readers. It is unfortunate that people cannot read information on here and have a productive, professional conversation in which to aquire information and network. Everyone is entitled to their decisions. Everyone that knows me knows I have opinions and won't hesitate to give them to you. But this is not the place to smash each other. The public does read this blog. I honestly feel that brotherhood is not what is once was, at least for some.

Graney ([Email](#)) - 10/17/11 - 16:49

Thanks for your input, Graney. You have articulated an issue with this blog that's been present for ages. And there are really two forums here. First is Mike's megaphone, and that one's pretty straight-forward. What you read is what you get. Regular range of topics and types of postings.

The second forum is the comments section. This one's less regular, less predictable. It can be all over the place, from frequency of reader postings to the amount of detail in conversations to the level of civility. Sometimes, readers stay on topic; sometimes they don't. The second forum is also the most problematic part of this blog.

There's been a learning curve on both of these forums. Everybody's had an education, from myself as poster (and also as moderator/editor), to the readers who post both by name and anonymous, to the lurkers who read but never add their own two cents.

I think the megaphone is pretty well tuned these days. My postings are intended to be interesting or entertaining to the reader, to deliver information and even prompt discussion, and portray emergency services in a good light. I think I am doing okay there.

It's the "second blog" that's still lacking. It's the reader comments that still don't work as well as they should. And for that, I have regrets. Cue Frank Sinatra, who plays in my head every time I type the "R" word. Or maybe the King, and his cover of "My Way." Thank you very much.

Legeros - 10/17/11 - 20:21

I too try to educate and inform with facts to the best of my ability since there are so may (Wake Co.) firefighters that read this blog. Unfortunately, many read looking for only controversy. Whatever the cause, my posts will continue to exemplify logic over emotion. It is simply the RIGHT THING to do.

A.C. Rich - 10/17/11 - 20:37

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 Demolition

10/16/11 22 W, 1 I - + 4 - 5

What are we looking at here? Out with the old, in with the new and multi-story. Click to enlarge:



Bay leaf station 1

charlie - 10/17/11 - 01:04

cameron village, oberlin and clark

lee - 10/17/11 - 01:30

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

Unusual Fire Apparatus

10/17/11 178 W, 2 I - + 5 - 4

Couple Google finds for your Monday morning amusement. First is a 1951 Crosley built by Overland Amusements as an entertainment vehicle. The fifth-wheel trailer was designed with benches on both sides and safety restraints shaped like ladders. It was restored by a St. Louis fire equipment dealer, who added some details. The engine is a four-cylinder Jeep with an automatic transmission. It was recently (?) auctioned by Barrett-Jackson and sold for \$110,000. [See the auction listing with more photos.](#)



Barrett-Jackson photo

Next is a vehicle called Draco, a 1979 Oshkosh crash truck converted into an all-terrain recreation vehicle in the early 2000s. The monster measures 28-feet in length, eight-feet and four-inches in width, and 12-feet and two-inches high. The 34,000-pound creation was a two-year project for world traveler and wildlife photographer V. Ross Johnson and her husband. She would soon be wheelchair-dependent, so they built the rig to meet her needs while enable them to continue to travel. It was subsequent offered for sale, after they planned to move to Arizona. [See more photos of Draco.](#)

WHEEL LIFE

Wildlife photographers doesn't let disease put a stop to her travels. Julianne Crane says.

Couple creates custom vehicle for adventures

The Spokesman-Review

'You roll 16 tons and whaddya get?"

Oh, about 6 miles per gallon on the highway and a little less in the bumbles.

Before all of you anti-monster rig folks get riled up, this "Advanced Overland Transport Vehicle" with its steel-metal exterior and ramrod



good looks has a peaceful purpose. It all began about seven years ago when then-commercial pilot, world traveler and wildlife photographer V. Ross Johnson fell ill with a mysterious auto-immune disorder. Soon she was no longer able to fly or backpack into remote areas to take pictures of wildlife in their natural habitat. Within a

V. Ross Johnson, left, and Shaina Torselow with "Orca," their one-of-a-kind Advanced Overland Transport Vehicle.

Continued: **Wheel Life/ES**

And the RV sold for \$250,000! <http://www.tincantourists.com/classified..>

Legeros - 10/17/11 - 08:28

I saw that Crosley on the B-Jack auction block last year. It sold for a low price, and is a pretty neat rig.

Duda ([Email](#)) - 10/18/11 - 16:17

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

Caption This Photo / Crash Crew

10/19/11 49 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

This curious character was photographed the other week at the airport fire station. Appears to be dressed a few weeks too early for Halloween. And talk about bright clothing! Hawaiian shirts have nothing on reflective proximity gear...



That looks like a scene from the Wizard of Oz. "If I only had a heart."

Wizard - 10/21/11 - 08:41

Baked potato anyone?

J.A.F.O. - 10/21/11 - 14:00

Shake and bake.....

Philyaw - 10/21/11 - 19:35

Hey Cap Carter

Looks like there may be some dust in the compartment on 2

Rob Mitchell - 10/22/11 - 12:20

Name: (real name)

Remember personal info?

preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Yes

No

/ [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.

Morning Reading - October 19, 2011

10/19/11 369 W - + 5 - 2

Good morning Raleigh. Fire Prevention Week has passed, and it was fun seeing folks at the various events around town(s). Fall is in full bloom, and the State Fair beckons. Time for a mountain trip as well.

- [Small plane runs off RDU runway](#) - WRAL story about a twin-engine Cheyenne that bumped its nose into mud right off the runway early this morning. No injuries in the incident that occurred shortly before 4:00 a.m. No photos, however. Not surprising, given the hour.
- [City to buy, demolish flood-prone apartments](#) - *Midtown Raleigh News* story from last week, if you missed it. Raleigh has received \$1.35 million from FEMA to demolish four flood-prone apartment buildings near Crabtree Creek. Nine buildings with fewer problems will remain. Flooding (and occasional water rescues) are recurring problem at the Grove Park Apartments.
- [Respectfully arrested](#) - *News & Observer* letter to the editor yesterday, from one of the Occupy Raleigh supporters with praise for the respectful treatment from the Raleigh Police Department. Mr. Blogger watched and photographed for a bit on Sunday, and observed nothing but professional behavior on the part of the law officers on scene. [See those photos](#).
- [Two firefighters in South Carolina struck](#) - South Carolina on Fire story about two Goose Creek firefighters struck by a suspected drunk driver. They were operating at an MVA. Both were transported with injuries: shattered ankle for Firefighter/Medic Christopher Harrison and torn ligaments in at least one knee for Capt. Michale Altoff. They were treated and released several hours later.
- [Fire Prevention Week event photos](#) - Here's a summary set of links, of every event attended by Lee or Legeros over the last month.

We've resumed normal programming.

- [Bay Leaf FD - Open House](#)
- [Clayton FD - Open House](#)
- [Creedmoor FD - Fireman's Day](#) - [Lee](#) | [Legeros](#)
- [Cary FD - Safety Day](#)
- [Fairview FD - Open House](#)
- [Fuquay-Varina FD - Open House](#)
- [Garner FD - Fireman's Day](#) - [Lee](#) | [Legeros](#)
- [Morrisville FD - Fire Prevention Day](#)
- [Parkwood FD - Barbecue](#)
- [Raleigh FD - Crabtree Valley Mall](#)
- [Raleigh FD - Chick-fil-A](#)
- [Stony Hill FD - Open House](#) - [Lee](#) | [Legeros](#)
- [Thanksgiving FD - Anniversary](#)

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Service Department

10/19/11 37 W, 1 I - + 9 - 2

Seen in south Raleigh. Did double double-takes passing that place, as a piece of fire apparatus was also there and parked on the other side of the building.



cardinal international off of city farm, across from old cat bus parking lot and city radio shop. ems bus still there as of thursday night.

jason lane - 10/21/11 - 00:42

WVTA198 spent some time there as well this week. Which is probably the fire apparatus you saw.

shevais - 10/22/11 - 00:03

I'm surprised Stony Hill did not have P395 there... we practically own one of the service bays... or have at least paid for it in full by now.

A.C. Rich - 10/22/11 - 00:18

Youngsville 41 was in the parking lot. You can see its hood in the top right of the photo.

F-41 - 10/22/11 - 00:21

It was a Raleigh unit on the side of the building. Too funny, I will have to pay more attention to the place in the future!

Legeros - 10/22/11 - 08:15

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

1983 Planters Oil Mill Fire in Rocky Mount

10/19/11 166 W, 1 I - + 9 - 3

In August, the OSFM online news channel *Fire & Rescue Journal* [published this historical article](#) on the 1983 Planters Oil Mill fire in Rocky Mount. The article's author, Shannon Orndorff, provides a nice overview of the incident. Three vintage images are also included, including the below shot of Platform 10 in action. The early Wednesday evening explosion and fire brought seven engines, one platform, and approximately 145 firefighters to 1004 Cokey Road. Crews were on scene from Rocky Mount, Stony Creek, and West Edgecombe fire departments.

Complications included fires fed by Hexane, a gas used in extracting oil from cotton seeds. By the time the incident terminated 21 hours later, five firemen had been transported with injuries including smoke inhalation and bruised ribs. [Read the entire story](#), which is also available as a PDF document. Please keep those historical articles coming! (And [see this prior blog posting](#), with links to historical articles in the *Journal's* former print-based format.)



Fire & Rescue Journal photo

A fire at that place was an almost weekly event. My grandparents lived about two blocks away; between the mill and the main fire station. If I recall; this one was the big one that shut Planters down for good.

scott warner - 10/20/11 - 08:50

Scott, that was the big one that shut the place down. If you remember Southern Cotton and Oil Company was located in the same area and it too was destroyed by fire just a couple years prior to this fire. The 2 fires were about the same in size and intensity but the planters fire was more dangerous due to the Hexane.

Mike, A reference was made about the single platform being used on the fire, but back then That's all Rocky Mount had. Prior to the platform they had a 1950's LaFrance tiller. The nearest platform or ladder that could have been brought in to assist would have been Wilson, NC some 20-25 miles away and Greenville NC after that about 40 miles away.

One other note, Assisting Departments called in (West Edgecombe, Stony Creek, West Mount, Sharpsburg) were mostly needed for manpower. Stony Creek had a Newer Mack Engine with a 1000gpm Waterous Pump and if I remember correctly they did pump water but all others were manpower. The Science of Fire Fighting and Fire Protection has certainly changed in the last 25+ years.

Galax,VA - 10/20/11 - 21:57

New Antiques Around Town

10/21/11 278 W, 3 I - + 6 - 4

There are a couple new pieces of antique fire apparatus around town, and they've been photographed by Lee Wilson in recent days and weeks. Below is a 1985 American LaFrance Century? that previously served Garden City FD in Long Island, NY. It's privately owned and operated by the commercial enterprise [First in Fire Company](#). See more [photos of the truck](#).



Lee Wilson photograph

Below is a 1946 Mack that's also from somewhere up north. It's privately owned by members of the [Dragon Slayers Motorcycle Club](#). See more [photos of the truck](#).



Lee Wilson photograph

This ladder truck was delivered this summer, a 1974 American LaFrance Century? 100-foot midmount that originally served Midland FD in Pennsylvania. It's privately owned by a member of the Wake-New Hope FD. See more [photos of the truck](#) (scroll down the linked page).



Lee Wilson photograph

Next question, how many antiques total reside in Raleigh and Wake County? Let's attempt a starter list...

Raleigh

- 1800s hand hose cart (in storage)
- 1905 American LaFrance steamer
- 1926 American LaFrance pumper
- 1950 Mack pumper
- 1953 (circa) wooden rescue boats and trailer
- 1982 Mack pumper

Cary

- 1953 Seagrave pumper

Apex

- 1940 Ford/Hunter pumper

Fuquay-Varina

- 1945 Mack pumper, lettered for Fuquay Springs

Morrisville

- 1963 Chevy/Darley pumper

Rolesville

- 1958 Chevy/American/Barton pumper
- 1967 Willis brush truck

Stony Hill

- 1954 Mack pumper (ex- Independence, NJ, delivered 1974)

Zebulon

- 1920s hand hose reel
- 1948 Mack pumper (or is it a 1946?)

Private Owners (to name a few...)

- 1973 Mack pumper, ex-demo? (Tim Henshaw owner, [see photos](#)).
- 1961 Chevy/Howe pumper (ex- Swift Creek FD, Barry's Cafe owner)
- 1955 American LaFrance pumper (ex- Audubon, NJ, ex- St. Augustine, FL, Tim Henshaw owner, [see photos](#)).
- 1948 Mack (Raleigh Professional Fire Firefighters Association owner, [see photo](#).)

On the bottom pic; can anyone confirm if that "PBF" stands for Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire?

T.Polamalu - 10/21/11 - 13:48

Hey T, per this forum post, <http://www.youngstownfire.com/forums/ind..>, that Midland ladder is indeed from Pittsburgh.

Legeros - 10/21/11 - 22:05

Also add the '54 Ford w/Barton-American pump (I think), owned by Chris Young ...

TimB - 10/23/11 - 09:59

And – Lee Lovic, with Raleigh FD Prevention, owns I think two old ALF's ...

TimB - 10/23/11 - 10:01

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.

500-Pound, Cold War-Era Bomb Found in Gaston County

10/22/11 323 W, 1 I - + 5 - 3

Here's an interesting story out of Gaston County, about a Vietnam War-era bomb found in a creek bed in Ranlo. Some guys were searching for scrap metal and came across the six-foot long, 500-pound device. They called the police, who called the requisite bomb squads, and which included demolition experts from Fort Bragg. The device has been removed. This [WSCO-TV story](#) has photos and aerial footage, while this [Gaston Gazette story](#) has some interesting history behind the find.



WSCO-TV image

Some of the town's long-time residents recall that a Nike missile plant was located near the wooded area in the 1950s. The plant, they recall, produced outer casings for the missiles. Two such casings were found in the same area in 1986 by another resident. He reported his find, but "they acted like it was no big deal." (The creek bomb looks more like fixed-wing ordnance, than something inside a missile, what do you think?) Anyway, the *Gazette* story tells more of that interesting history.

[Project Nike](#), as many of you may know, was a Cold War initiative that established missile launchers in protective rings around a number of locations including several major cities. Here's one of the [sites that encircled Baltimore](#), and that has been visited by Yours Truly. (Need to dig out those film prints some time, though one of which is included in the prior link.)

Next question, what are some of the former military sites around the Triangle? Be they operations, manufacturing, command-control, whatever? And not including National Guard sites. Here are a few that come to mind: Camp Butner, of course, in Granville County, Army air base Raleigh-Durham airport during WWII, Army air base at Raleigh Municipal Airport during WWII, [aircraft plant and training field in Burlington](#) during WWII, and some sort of [top-secret communications facility](#) in Chatham County. What are some others that others know about?

Also during World War II, we saw a small number of military aircraft crashes in and around Raleigh, the biggest being on May 9, 1944, when a B-17 bomber crashed into a wooded area in Garner. Two crew members were killed. Raleigh sent two trucks and 12 men to scene. Fire Chief W. R. Butts was one of the first officials to arrive on scene. Burning wreckage was scattered over area 600 yards long and 100 yards wide. Bombs and bullets exploded long after crash. Spectators were drawn to the scene were told to keep back for fear of further explosions.

Legeros - 10/22/11 - 09:34

There was a WW II era crash near Pine Level. It occurred on my mother's family farm. A small, single seater made a belly landing in one of their fields. Pilot walked away. Don't know the exact date other than "during WW II" as my mother said.

DJ - 10/22/11 - 09:41

The more I think about it, DJ, the better the chances that there was probably an extensive military presence in central Carolina during WWII. Wonder how many sites persisted past the war, or were operated/created during, say, the Cold War?

Plane crashes and other accidents were probably not uncommon as well, such as the famous munitions truck explosion in Johnston County that killed 7 and injured over 100 in 1942, <http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog..>

Legeros - 10/22/11 - 09:59

Remember when Goldsboro was bombed with nukes.

The 1961 Goldsboro B-52 crash refers to an accident that occurred near Goldsboro, North Carolina, on 24 January 1961 when a B-52 Stratofortress carrying two Mark 39 nuclear bombs broke up in mid-air, dropping its nuclear payload in the process. There is a bit of land the feds bought up that supposedly is the remnants of one of the bombs they couldn't dig up because of ground water.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1961_Goldsb..

Rick - 10/27/11 - 23:57

Thanks Rick. Here's a blog posting about a retrospective that the Goldsboro Argus did, <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..>

Legeros - 10/28/11 - 07:52

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 Vehicle / Miner Forty-Niner

10/22/11 36 W, 1 I - + 5 - 7

Speaking of history, here's an interesting vehicle(s) as photographed at a mine museum in Western North Carolina. Very special purpose, very necessary purpose.



Are the colors related to the intended contents?

scott warner - 10/22/11 - 19:57

I think Scott is on the right track...port-a-potties for the miners?

stretch - 10/22/11 - 20:35

I saw something on the History Channel not long ago about the colloquialism "Don't yank my chain" being from the coal mines and for this very reason. Supposedly the waste cars were down a spur for a little privacy and a miner would put a length of chain under the wheel to keep pranksters from pushing the cars further down the track into the dark. If a miner was doing his business and heard someone coming, he'd yell "Don't yank my chain!" to ward off any shenanigans.

Duda ([Email](#)) - 10/25/11 - 15:08

Name: (real name
preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes

Tennessee Tanker

10/22/11 65 W, 1 I - + 10 - 3

Found this truck parked on Highway 19, west of Spruce Pine, North Carolina. Lettered for Roan Mountain Fire Department in Tennessee. Looks like the ultimate in bare-bones apparatus. There were a couple outlets on the rear of the tank, plus some lettering. Is that a simple ladder rack on the side? Probably worked just fine for hauling water. Click to enlarge:



Looks more like the paving company cheaped out on painting over the FD lettering when they bought it.

Duda (Email) - 10/25/11 - 15:05

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

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

Fayetteville's New Aerial Ladder

10/23/11 94 W, 1 I - + 8 - 7

Found this photo on the [Pierce Flickr page](#). Fayetteville's new aerial ladder, a 2011 Pierce Arrow XT 105-foot rear-mount with a 2000 (!) GPM pump and 500 gallon tank. (How common are 2000 GPM pumps in these parts, anyway?) Specs and drawings [on this web page](#). Looking at the Fayetteville Fire Department's web site ([www.bravethefire.com!](http://www.bravethefire.com/)), they have 16 stations and five truck companies (T1, T6, T7, T9, T11). One platform and the rest are straight sticks, as shown on the web site. Readers can advise of more updated information.



Wake Forest previous Ladder had a 2000GPM pump. It was specked with two 6" intakes on the passenger side pump panel for easy service test. Not sure but believe Rolesville Ladder has 2000 GPM pump

Rob Mitchell - 10/23/11 - 13:53

Cary L3, has one, but it was a demo before it belonged to the CFD, it was not specked for the department

shevais - 10/23/11 - 15:03

Fuquay and Garner's ladders are both 2000 gpm.

911 - 10/23/11 - 16:07

Nice ladder Fayetteville! Butner Public Safety has a 2000gpm E-One HP75 ladder (nice truck in my opinion). Bay Leaf has a 1750gpm ALF pumper.

A.C. Rich - 10/23/11 - 20:12

Engine 4 is a 2000 gpm and engine 5 is 1750 gpm

50-210 - 10/24/11 - 21:22

Concord operates 9 Engines (8 with 2,000gpm pumps and 1 with 1,500) 3 Ladder Cos (1-75' ladder with 2,000 gpm pump, 1-105' ladder with 2,000 gpm pump, 1-100' platform with 2,000 gpm pump and 2- reserve ladders 75' with 2,000 gpm pumps)

Curtis Teague ([Email](#)) - 10/25/11 - 23:03

Kernersville Truck 41 is a 1990 Grumman Aerial Platform 102' with 2,000 gpm pump.

Curtis Teague ([Email](#)) - 10/26/11 - 23:37

Morning Reading - October 23, 2011

10/23/11 356 W - + 7 - 7

Good morning, Raleigh. Still reporting from the road. Wrapping a long weekend in Spruce Pine. It's our annual trip to see the leaves. Destinations vary, based on Mrs. Blogger's lodging preferences. We happened upon two incidents on the trip, a [fatal MVA in Forsyth County](#) and a [medical airlift in Avery County](#). Back to the "big city" today. Raleigh, where Barney Fife goes to party.

- [Dash Cam Footage of South Carolina Close Call](#) - Statter911 posting with dash cam footage from the October 18 incident where two firefighters from Goose Creek, SC, were struck at the scene of an overnight MVA. There's a bit of interesting reader conversation as well, including one idea for improving scene safety on roadways at night: turn off apparatus headlights, and raise all light towers, with the spots pointing either straight down or away from traffic. What are your thoughts on the best ways to be seen on scene?
- [New Hanover Engine Blows Tire, Gets Stuck](#) - Short *Star-News* story about New Hanover County Fire Department Engine 41 that blew a tire on Interstate 40. Expert handling by the driver-operator brought the rig to a safe stop, albeit on a muddy shoulder. Found that story via [FireTruckBlog.com](#), via [Statter911.com](#). No secrets which web sites that we read, no?
- *Star-News* Answers Reader Questions - Check out the "more information" links from the New Hanover County story, which link to a separate site called [MyReporter.com](#). It's a blog-like feature where reader questions about the community are answered by reporters, who contact the right person to provide a response. Neat. Maybe we should be offer such a service on this blog. It's always good to go straight to the source.
 - [Why does the Castle Hayne fire department use county-owned fire engines to run errands?](#)
 - [Why don't the Wilmington Fire Department and New Hanover County Fire Rescue merge?](#)
 - [Why are some fire trucks painted red and others white or yellow in New Hanover County and Wilmington?](#)
 - [Why do fire trucks not have a switch to turn traffic lights green in their direction?](#)

\$997 BOND? For running that fast and impaired through an accident scene, hitting and injuring 2 firefighters and her bond was set at \$997.00? WOW Where is the legal system at?

WOW! - 10/24/11 - 14:26

Bail is a monetary amount designed to ensure that the charged person appears in court, as I understand the concept, versus a monetary penalty commensurate with the severity of the charges. But then again, I am neither a lawyer nor play one on television.

Legeros - 10/24/11 - 19:30

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

River Water Supply?

10/24/11 88 W, 1 I - + 6 - 4

Saw these in Spruce Pine. They're located a stone's throw from the North Toe River, which sits on the other side of the railroad tracks that carry CSX coal trains through town about once an hour. The old depot's to the right of the photo, and this is all along Locust Street. That's the town's "lower" main street. What do you think, preconnected pipes for drafting from the river? In case of emergency water needs?



What are the weird ball looking things to the right of the right most pipe?

Adam - 10/25/11 - 01:37

So, Lee, if you're correct, I would assume that there are a similar number of connections on the OTHER side of the tracks, as well? Where I started my career we had 2 1/2" pipes buried under the railroad tracks with connections on both sides to allow for prolonged pumping without blocking the tracks.

Furey - 10/25/11 - 09:32

Barry, interesting question. I didn't think to look on the opposite side of the tracks, where there's a service road or driveway, between the tracks and the river. Based on Google Maps aerial view, it looks like there COULD be a similar set of connections there. Also, at the pictured connections above, each pipe had an in-ground "something" behind the pipe. Like where a water meter would reside. What would that be? Maybe a meter to measure gallons flowed, for record keeping?

Legeros - 10/25/11 - 09:54

It seems logical that there would be a second set on the other side. The connections are Storz. I know they make Storz connections for drafting, but it seems more likely that there would be a drafting apparatus on the other side of the tracks to keep from having to try to pull a prime and draft over such a long distance. Neat, though. Never seen this done.

Duda ([Email](#)) - 10/25/11 - 15:00

The fact that they are black and metered leaves me to believe they may be related to railroad operations as opposed to fire protection.

D.Cates - 10/25/11 - 16:42

I'll be in Spruce Pine in Nov, maybe I'll stop in the firehouse and find out!

shevais - 10/25/11 - 22:07

Red Oak Squad 12

10/25/11 84 W, 1 I - + 6 - 7

Here's a neat specialty unit, a 1992 International/Saulsbury air and light unit that serves as Squad 12 for the Red Oak Fire Department in Nash County. Double towers and triple sirens! What other interesting or unusual rigs come to mind, in that neck of woods? Photo credit to Lee Wilson, who has been wandering neighboring counties on these cool, sunny afternoons. See [more photos from ROFD](#), as well as some shots from inside the [Rocky Mount Fire Museum](#).



Lee Wilson photo

He should check out Red Oak VFD in PITT County! They've got a nice Rosenbauer engine and a pretty sweet support truck. Plus the guys over there are tops.

Duda ([Email](#)) - 10/27/11 - 11:53

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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'?

Wake & District CD Release Party, Saturday, November 5

10/26/11 133 W, 1 I - + 6 - 6

Celtic news release: Get your arse down to Tir Na nOG at [218 S. Blount Street](#) in Raleigh on Saturday, November 5, 2011 from 7:00 p.m. to midnight, and join [Wake & District Pipes & Drums](#) for an evening of Celtic fellowship hosted by their friends at Tir Na nOg. The event features the skirl of the pipes and drums, Inis Cairde School of Irish Dance, kilts and more. All celebrating the release of Wake & District's first EP *For Our Fallen*. Admission is free. Pint glasses will be on sale one for \$20 or two for \$30, and each pint glass comes with two free refills. Copies of the EP will be on sale for only \$10! For more information, or to buy yours early, [see this web page](#).



Just FYI the glasses do not have the smurf on them, just the wording engraved

Mike - 10/26/11 - 10:55

So the question of the day is- Does the glass come filled for the initial purchase price, and then there are two refills? One would need to already have a beverage in order to need a refill... Either way a good deal though!

Bob P. - 10/26/11 - 11:23

For your clarification it comes empty with 2 tickets for beer.

Mike - 10/26/11 - 12:12

Beer huh? Might try it. Thanks for the clarification.

Bob P. - 10/26/11 - 12:25

Is Atlantic Beach Pipes and Drums coming to play?

Bill - 10/26/11 - 22:11

Not this time. This is a fundraiser and celebration of the release of our first cd. A band from the Richmond area of Virginia called The Havers will also be performing throughout the evening. I encourage everyone to come out and support your local public safety pipe band that is comprised of local cops, firemen, medics and military servicemen/women.

Mike - 10/26/11 - 23:14

Name: (real name preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes

More Media Awards: Best News Story, Best Photo

10/26/11 206 W, 2 I - + 9 - 6

Two more awards to announce, again from this year's International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) [Media Awards for 2011](#). We already proudly announced the awarding of [Honorable Mention for Best Blog](#) in a posting on October 13. Well, with great humility and rapidly expanding ego, I am pleased to announce two additional wins for myself: Second Place for Best News Story on Web-Based Site, and Honorable Mention for [Best] Photo on News-Based Site.

The former is a [FireNews.net story](#) about the mass-casualty incident at the Raleigh Sheraton hotel on February 13, 2010. The latter is the [FireNews.net photograph](#) of a commercial structure fire on April 22, 2010. That was the dentist office on West Millbrook Road, just up the road from Blog Central. All three of the winning entries were submitted on behalf of IAFF Local 548, the Raleigh Professional Fire Fighters Association.

Congratulations to all the winners in all the categories. Thank you again for everyone's support. It remains my pleasure and privilege to serve our local emergency services in written, recorded, and photographic form. And winning contests is pretty cool, too. Maybe we'll start one on this blog. Annual award, for something or another. We'll call it the Mikey.



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.

The Venerable Step Van

10/26/11 84 W, 1 I - + 10 - 4

We're following photographer Lee Wilson's adventures this week east of Wake County. He's cruised into Rocky Mount and photographed this step van parked outside what looks like Station 1. The venerable step van. Do departments still buy the things? Or have they gone the way of either smaller sport utility vehicles or larger equipment trucks? But bet there are plenty older ones, still serving in support or reserve roles. [See more photos](#), including their 2000 GPM big-water Ladder 10.



Lee Wilson photo

<http://www.google.com/imgres?q=squad+47+..>

<http://www.google.com/imgres?q=fdny+squa..>

StillUseThem - 10/26/11 - 22:08

Portland's Dive Team (Portland, OR) uses one:

<http://www.portlandonline.com/fire/index..>

It's housed at their central HQ/Ash St. station and responds first due to all dive rescue related calls.

-Trevor

Trevor James ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 10/27/11 - 04:59

Kenly has a nice squad 2? that is a FedEx type van. Fairly new (5years old I believe?)

FriendlyKenly - 10/27/11 - 08:23

Bunyan Station 73 in Beaufort County has 7340, a 1985-ish Chevy Step Van which carries equipment to support FF on structure fire calls, including a cascade system sans compressor. It used to hold everything for all calls until 2002 or so, when the department bought a Hackney-bodied Ford Superduty (7341). The newer rig carries all the extrication equipment and other various bits and pieces needed for the volume of wrecks they see in their district.

Duda ([Email](#)) - 10/27/11 - 11:48

Rocky Mount began running a step van in the 1970's as a support vehicle to all structure fires and some auto accidents. It was equipt with extra firefighting equipment, salvage and overhaul equipment, some first aid equipment, and had at least a driver and 2 firefighters to assist in firefighting and clean up efforts. It covered the whole city and was referred to by many as " The Flying Squad " Nashville Fire Department placed one in service a short time later as a equipment truck, that was far superior in design and included firefighting equipment, extra airpack tanks and even a cascade system for refilling airpacks. (Ricky Dorsey who is now with the Wake Tech. Fire Training program) would know more about Nashvilles Trk he was a fulltime FireFighter with Nashville at the time.

Galax,VA - 10/28/11 - 12:57

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.

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.

Old Elm City Fire Station?

10/27/11 591 W, 2 I - + 5 - 5

Who hasn't looked at an old building like the top picture, photographed by Lee Wilson, and thought "that looks like an old fire station." Same is located at 107 S. Railroad Street in Elm City. That's Wilson County. The present fire station is shown in the second picture, beside the present EMS station. Let's see what the Great Internet Oracle can tell us. Elm City had a population in 2007 of 1,209 people, and an area of 0.7 square-miles. Thus the fire department probably also protects a substantially larger unincorporated area. When was ECFD formed? [North Carolina Secretary of State corporation records](#) list 1983 as the year Elm City Emergency Services Inc. was incorporated. Is that the same entity as the fire department?

The corporation records list a different mailing address as the fire station, 106 W. Main Street versus 102 W. Main Street. Sounds like ECES is the EMS agency. Google finds this [Wilson County web page](#) that tells more. ECFD is actually named Elm City-Toisnot Volunteer Fire Department, and they were incorporated in 1971. They serve the Toisnot Rural Fire District as well as the town of Elm City. Returning to the state corporation records, there's a Toisnot Rural Fire Department listed with an incorporation year of 1971.

Does that mean that two entities at one time existed, Elm City FD and Toisnot Rural FD? Could be. Maybe. There's no corporate record of the former, which would make sense if a city-run fire department had existed. Or maybe the town had a fire engine and some equipment that it funded, and a loose group of volunteers, but one that never pursued private incorporation. Our readers to the east can certainly tell more. Alternately, the current fire department might be the only fire department that ever existed, and they took their name from a pair of differently rated insurance districts.





Lee Wilson photos

But what about the building in question? The thing looks several decades old, and could have started its life as a garage or stable. But it seems too old to have been built as a fire station, unless the town itself is really old. Let's see what the [Wilson County property records](#) say. Lo and behold, the building at 107 S. Railroad Street is listed as owned by the Town of Elm City Fire Department. Well, that answers a couple questions right there! The records say the structure was built in 1900. But was it built as a fire station? We need some information on Elm City itself, which [we find from this page](#).

Elm City was originally named Toisnot, and renamed in 1913. It was railroad town and looks like its grown period was the 1910s and 1920s. Thus the number of turn-of-the-century buildings that are present, and the reason that town's historic district is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Here's an [inventory of the district](#) (map and inventory document on another link).

Alas, the old fire station is not included in the inventory. But in general, a bustling town in the 1910s probably did have a fire department. Maybe a hand-pulled chemical cart. Maybe a hose reel or two, if a water system was present. Maybe even a fire engine, say an early triple-combination. Looks like we still need some reader input. Or a random phone call to the local history library there. Anyway, here are [Lee's photos from his visit](#). And thus concludes our early morning history lesson. We'll find out soon enough if this blogger-historian knows what the heck he's talking about!

My dad happens to be the Assistant Chief there. I will ask him if two different fire departments ever existed.

Marcus - 10/28/11 - 14:40

I want to get pic's of the Elm City fire trucks Marcus.

lee - 10/29/11 - 02:10

Lee, send me an email with some dates that you are available and I am sure that I can work something out.

Marcus - 10/30/11 - 05:09

i will say that yes elm city fire dept and toisnot fire dept are two different agencies, elm city fire dept no longer exists with toisnot making a contract with elm city in the late 90's at one point they were combined, elm city ems is not affiliated with the fire dept. also the old firestation was the original fire dept, the trucks were too big and a new station was built where t exist today

jason osborne ([Email](#)) - 01/18/12 - 10:43

Name: (real name)

Remember personal info?

preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Yes

No

/ [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.

Piedmont Triad International Airport Fire Department

10/27/11 108 W, 1 I - + 9 - 5

Haven't paid a visit to the Greensboro airport in some time, e.g Piedmont Triad International. Random Google search finds this photo on the [airport's web site](#). Looks like the fire department's had some upgrades in recent years, including a new station (built with stimulus money, [announced in 2009](#)) and a new Oshkosh Striker crash truck (also from stimulus). [Here's a News 14 story](#) showing the station, which opened in September 2010. Wonder what became of the old building? [Recall this blog posting](#), with a picture of a tractor-drawn foamer from 1971-72. The airport fire station opened in 1965. Click to enlarge:



PTI Airport photo

The old Airport Station is still there and while no longer manned, it is still used by Airport Fire to store reserve airport fire units.

JAMES GREER ([Email](#)) - 08/25/17 - 19:11

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

1975 Mack CF Aerial Ladder

10/27/11 71 W, 1 I - + 8 - 8

Recognize this familiar rig? The Sharpsburg Fire Department in Nash County operates this 1975 Mack CF 85-foot aerial ladder with a 1000 GPM pump and a 325-gallon water tank. It last served with Eastern Wake Fire Department in Wake County. The original department is believed name Misty Beach. Perhaps readers can clarify, along with service dates for the truck. Lee Wilson photographed. [See more shots.](#)



Lee Wilson photo

The Mack CF aerial is originally from Mastic Beach, out on Long Island NY. I'm not sure the years it served there, but it was built in 1975.

Jon Umbdenstock ([Email](#)) - 11/01/11 - 18:34

Thanks for the clarification, Jon!

Legeros - 11/02/11 - 08:46

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter, Fall 2011

10/27/11 101 W, 2 I - + 7 - 9

The fall 2011 edition of the *Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter* has been posted to the web site raleighfirenews.org. The contents include: New Portable Personal Monitors; Injury at Arson Fire on Kent Road; Firefighters Compete at World Games in New York; Grant Awarded to Burn Fund; Raleigh's Finest 5K Pays Tribute; Historical Society News; Centennial Coins For Sale; Retiree Christmas Party. [See the web site](#) for back issues. Edited by department historian Mike Legeros, the *Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter* is a quarterly publication for personnel, retirees, and citizens. [Read the issue](#) , or click to access:



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'?

Crossnore Fire Department Shuttle Bus

10/27/11 65 W, 1 I - + 12 - 5

Came across this vintage Ford school bus last week while cruising through the community of Crossnore, a wee town in Avery County, North Carolina. Same is labeled as a fire department shuttle bus. For those inclined toward light bars and strobes, take a few deep breaths. It's okay for some things to be unadorned. Click to enlarge:



They use buses like these to shuttle visitors up and down US 221 between the parking areas in Linville and MacRae Meadow during the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. To my knowledge they've never been used for emergency operations, though I'd bet CVFD would make them available if asked.

attic.rat - 10/27/11 - 22:03

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'?

Author Interview, 2004

10/27/11 609 W - + 9 - 6

Here's a flashback to my author days, when the [second volume of Raleigh & Wake County Firefighting](#) was being published by Arcadia Publishing as part of their *Images of America* series. This short set of questions, if memory serves, accompanied promotional information about the book. Have seven years really passed since that project wrapped? Egad. Enjoy.

Q: How did you come up with the idea for the book?

A: Well, I had more [local fire history] photos to share. And not just leftovers from the first book, but pictures newly uncovered at the [North Carolina] State Archives, at local fire departments, and in personal collections. I also had an edge on this second go-around as folks were now familiar with what I was working on. I didn't have to pull nearly as many teeth. Additionally, I wanted to produce a second volume to spotlight people, places, and things that weren't in the first book. Pictures of Durham Highway, Falls, Morrisville, and Six Forks fire departments, for example, all of which were underrepresented in Volume I. And more group pictures of county firefighters, such as a rare shot of the Western Boulevard Fire Department. And, of course, more old fire trucks.

Q: How long did the project take?

A: *Raleigh and Wake County Firefighting* was released the first week of June 2003. I resumed researching photographs in August, submitted a proposal for Volume II in September, and signed a contract that same month. The finished product was delivered on January 30, 2004. Most of the leg work, running around the county to various fire stations, was done on the weekend or while taking vacation days from work. My holiday break in December was spent in a similar fashion, tracking down last-minute photo leads and fact-checking at the local history library. The captions were written in January, and the introduction drafted during a three-day stay in New Orleans, also in January.

Q: What new things did you learn about your subject from researching the book?

A: I learned more about the early years of Wake County's volunteer fire departments and the thankless efforts of community members who donated their time, energy, money, and materials to bring protection to their neighbors. In fact, the book is dedicated to Wake County's volunteer firefighters. Both past and present.

Q: Why do you think people will enjoy the book?

A: Fans of the first book should again enjoy old photos of fires, fire trucks, fire stations, and firefighters. Volume II concentrates on 1940 to 1990, five of the most formative decades for fire protection in Wake County. That's also a time period that many readers can remember. They may even recognize an uncle, grandfather, or other familiar face.

Q: Please feel free to add anything you think is pertinent to these questions, anything you would like to share and think a reporter might find interesting as well as the readers.

A: Unlike the first book, with chapters divided by geography, *Raleigh and Wake County Firefighting Volume II* is divided into sections on the following: fires, equipment, facilities, personnel, other emergencies, and artifacts. The latter, Artifacts, includes a gallery of early patches worn on fire department uniforms. The final image of the book is a picture of a helmet insignia that melted at the author's first fire. During my three-years-and-change as a Raleigh firefighter, I backed a hose man at a two-story duplex in North Raleigh one early morning. The structure was fully involved, we ducked and opened the door, and flames blasted over our heads. My helmet was pitted and the plastic insignia turned crispy.

Q: Will there be a third volume?

A: Ask me that question in 2005.

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.

Old Hot Springs Fire Station?

10/28/11 246 W, 4 I - + 11 - 7

Here's another building that looked like it might've been a fire station. This one's right off the main drag in Hot Springs, North Carolina. That's way out in Madison County, North Carolina. Click to enlarge:



Clues were considerably more obvious regarding this one's origins: big bay door with a no parking sign on same, hydrant right in front of the building, and a North Carolina State Fireman's Association sticker on the front door.



Walking around to the rear of the structure and we found windows with bars. Looks like the building one also held a jail. Conclusion: This was once a city hall building, that held the fire station and jail and probably also the police station and mayor's office. The current fire station is a block away, and an EMS crew at that location confirmed our findings.



In fact, the building still serves the fire department. They use same as office space, and store a rescue truck there. (The other half of the building is a community center.) They also passed along the second-hand story of a jail fire at that location that killed two prisoners who set fire to their mattress(es). Happened some decades ago. Google finds no references, however. That one might require in-person digging. How old is the structure? Unknown, but the fire department dates to the 1910s. The building looks many decades old. Time to dig out tax records!

Mike, since you have touched on the subject of Hot Springs, NC..I think I can connect the Hot Springs posting to the question you asked in the 500 pound cold war era bomb comments about military facilities in NC. in the 1800's a big 200 room hotel was built for the hoards of people who came to Hot Springs believing in the healing powers of the hot mineral water springs in the area. The Hotel was taken over and used by the Government during WW-I has a prison Camp of sorts for German Sailors captured in American waters at the beginning of the war. The hotel was destroyed by fire shortly after the war ended.

Galax,VA - 10/28/11 - 12:10

im really anxious to know more about the old jailhouse fire in hot springs, dates, cause, names, ect.....

JUDITH ([Email](#)) - 11/10/11 - 16:26

Me too, Judith. But nothing has, um, sprung up from Google searching. Maybe at a future time, we'll learn more.

Legeros - 11/10/11 - 21:31

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.

When Cameras Die

10/28/11 298 W, 1 I - + 11 - 4

Why was Mikey carrying only one camera at yesterday's [two-alarm fire downtown](#)? Or, rather, one camera *body* but two lenses? That's 'cause my other body's in the shop. Last week, while conveniently on vacation, my Canon 40D DSLR stopped working. The problem, based on the error message and subsequent research, is likely the shutter mechanism. DSLR cameras have a limited shutter life. Mine is rated at 100,000. My actual number of clicks is just over 60,000. That was found via this nifty [third-party program called EOSInfo](#). (Other brands indicate same right inside the camera!)

Did my shutter really die at just 60,000? According to this [third-party database site](#), that's close to what they've recorded as "average number of actuations after which shutter died." Next commenced the mental acrobatics of decision-making. Repair the camera? Replace it? Upgrade? This took a solid day of solid thinking. Below are the results. (One person read somewhere put the per-click cost at two cents, given the current cost of Canon DSLR shutter repairs.)

First, took the 40D to the camera shop. Repair cost estimated around \$250. (Conveniently, the prize award of my [second place IAFF Media Award](#), learned about two days later.) Next, promptly (hastily?) bought *another* body, a gently used 50D found on eBay. That latter has a higher ISO setting than my 40D, which will help with night shots. Hopefully, will help greatly. And they use the same batteries! The 50D arrived yesterday *afternoon*. Finally, my third body-- a well-used Rebel XT-- will be relegated to reserve status slash camera for the Missus. My fourth body, another Rebel XT, died in December and was replaced by the 40D being repaired. Got that? What a pain... but still a less-expensive hobby than some others.



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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Web Site: (optional)

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.

Fuquay-Varina's New Rescue

10/29/11 48 W, 1 I - + 12 - 9

The Fuquay-Varina Fire Department has received a new rescue truck, a 2011 International TerraStar/KME medium-duty rescue. It was delivered on October 28 and will be placed in service as Rescue 3 at Station 3 in a few weeks. [See more photos from Lee Wilson.](#)



Lee Wilson photo

nice looking rig!

charlie - 10/29/11 - 14:42

Does FVFD staff the rescue trucks or does the engine's crew switch over if needed?

Watson - 10/29/11 - 20:32

Is this the county's new spec for medium duty rescues (or the first? I think I've only seen the county order heavy rescues so far?) or did the Town help to pay and thus they picked what they wanted?

B-Mac - 10/29/11 - 23:12

This is replacing a light duty rescue that is at station 3. The county does not have a spec on a rescue truck. They did have one when Hopkin, Stoney Hill, and Wendell replaced theirs. The funding is different for what it is replacing. When Rescue 1 gets replaced the amount of funding should be quite a bit more.

911 - 10/30/11 - 01:48

911 is correct. If memory (and my Fire Commission notes <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..>) serves, in May 2008, the model for county-funded rescue/service trucks was changed. Departments were seeking different-sized vehicles. Instead of a single spec'ed large-size rescue/service truck, they adopted three tiers of funding with spending caps on small Ford F-550 type trucks, medium commercial-chassis trucks, and large custom-chassis trucks.

Legeros - 10/30/11 - 09:05

FVFD doesn't staff that particular rescue. Usually, the third man off the engine drops off and takes the rescue. Rescue 1 on the other hand is usually staffed by at least one person sometimes two. Depends on time of the day(part-timers), staffing, volunteers. Chrome grille may replace the gray, according to International, they aren't manufactured for the Terra-star yet.

FVFD - 10/31/11 - 20:33

What siz box is it?

Chief - 03/11/13 - 20:23

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

High ISO Expansion Testing / Garner Rescue 1

10/29/11 160 W, 4 I - + 16 - 10

Here's a test of the high ISO expansion mode of my [new Canon 50D camera](#). Activating same raises the camera's ISO upper limit from 3200 to 12800. This was taken at a reported house fire on Hay River Street last night, as one of several test shots. Small fire in kitchen, units quickly cleared. Other shots at this setting produced heavy noise. This one's close to acceptable, and probably because the camera was pointed straight at bright lights.

The good news: shots at 1600 and 3200 look pretty good. The less-than-good news: shooting at 6400 should be limited, and shooting at 12800 should be a rare thing. And really, they're there just for the very low-light shots. Like a fire scene at night, without a lot of scene lighting or vehicle lights. Included are three variations in white balance, for collective amusement. Guess the second shot is closest to what my brain remembers my eye seeing. Click to enlarge:



Did you or Lee make it out to Garner's w/f yesterday on Crosspine?

Mike - 10/29/11 - 10:16

Negative, for me. Heard the dispatch while at work, forgot to switch over, so didn't get to listen until very late. Believe Lee was elsewhere.

Legeros - 10/29/11 - 10:19

Name: (real name
preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes

E-mail: (optional)

No

Web Site: (optional)

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.

Morning Reading - October 29, 2011

10/29/11 477 W - + 10 - 11

Good rainy morning Raleigh. Perfect day to stay inside and eat chicken and rice. That'll be breakfast over here at Blog Central, from a pot made on Sunday. Boil two or three large chicken breasts. Add two cans cream of mushroom (one low-fat). Add two cans cream of chicken (one low-fat). Add one cup Uncle Ben's converted white rice. And one-half cup brown rice. Half stick of butter. Consume slowly.

- [Hillsborough Street traffic circle sees 84 crashes](#) - *News & Observer* story about the Hillsborough Street roundabout and number (and severity) of accidents therein. Traffic engineers are watching and may alter the thing, if the frequency continues. More interesting-- to me at least-- is the number of comments in the story, totaling 150 today. When did that happen? When did *N&O* stories start exploding with reader comments? For years, it was WRAL that seemed the prime destination for discussion. Does the *N&O* allow comments 24/7, versus WRAL's business hours limit? That might be a factor.
- [Thursday's two alarms on South Blount Street](#) - That's a prior blog posting, with links to Legeros and Lee photos, as well as media coverage. Full incident description posted (so far) in the [Legeros photos](#). Sources for those details numbered four: media release from RFD, radio traffic heard prior to arriving, incident reports from Carolinas Fire Page, and what was seen on scene. Haven't had a chance to talk to those who were there, so some inaccuracies may be present. (But probably or hopefully better than mainstream new summaries?) As always, send me e-mail if and when incident details in posted photos are slightly or grossly wrong.
- [Jacksonville apartment fire video](#) - WITN story and footage of Thursday's apartment fire in Jacksonville, NC. Fire started in the attic of the three-story building that was under construction and spread to a half-dozen units. Both mutual aid departments and a second-shift of Jacksonville firefighters were called to the scene. Be sure to click the "Jacksonville Apartment Complex Fire" link on the page, for a short clip of good raw video.
- [Whitakers house fire photos](#) - *Rocky Mount Telegram* story with Bob Bartosz photos of a house fire on Watson Seed Farm Road (good rural street name there!) in Whitakers, NC. Battleboro and Salem fire departments aided WFD. Thanks Scott, for that submission."
- Elm City, Hot Springs buildings - If you missed them, here are a pair of blog postings about fire station buildings in [Elm City](#) (found by Lee) and [Hot Springs](#) (found by Legeros). Here's a secret: my favorite pastime is research. Blogging is a hoot, photography is a blast, but I hope my historical efforts are cream of my crop. We'll see how it all looks with another decade or so behind us. Time for breakfast. End of posting.

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Bring Out Your Buffs!

10/29/11 52 W - + 13 - 7

Saw this the other week as [posted on Statter911](#). Not a problem we encounter around Raleigh, that's for sure. Though there have been occasional joint sightings of Lee Wilson, Mike Legeros, and Jeff Harkey [at the same incident](#). Video from David Psenechnuk at [DMP Productions/FireBuffVideo.com](#).

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.

Caption This Photo / Haunted Fire Station

10/31/11 122 W, 1 I - + 16 - 11

The gang at the Antioch Fire Department in Granville County produced one of the funnest fundraisers in some time, a [haunted fire station](#) that they operated over three weekends in October. They converted their original fire station building-- replaced in recent years by a modern structure on the same property-- into a haunted house attraction. The lines were long on Saturday night, when Mrs. Blogger was one of several screaming as she took he twists and turns through the thing. Great fun. [See some pictures](#), which don't do the thing justice. Mark your calendar for next year. It's worth the drive. Here's one of the creepers that awaits inside:



Fire safety is no joke kids!

Safety Clown - 10/31/11 - 19:14

Chief, this breathing mask feels a little strange...

Legeros - 10/31/11 - 22:59

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.

Whatever Happened to my Transylvania Twist?

10/31/11 38 W - + 14 - 13

Four versions of videos to the classic song, including the original singer Bobby "Boris" Pickett, singing or lip-synching his 1962 novelty hit. Backing vocals by the Crypt-Kicker Five. Happy Halloween.

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'?

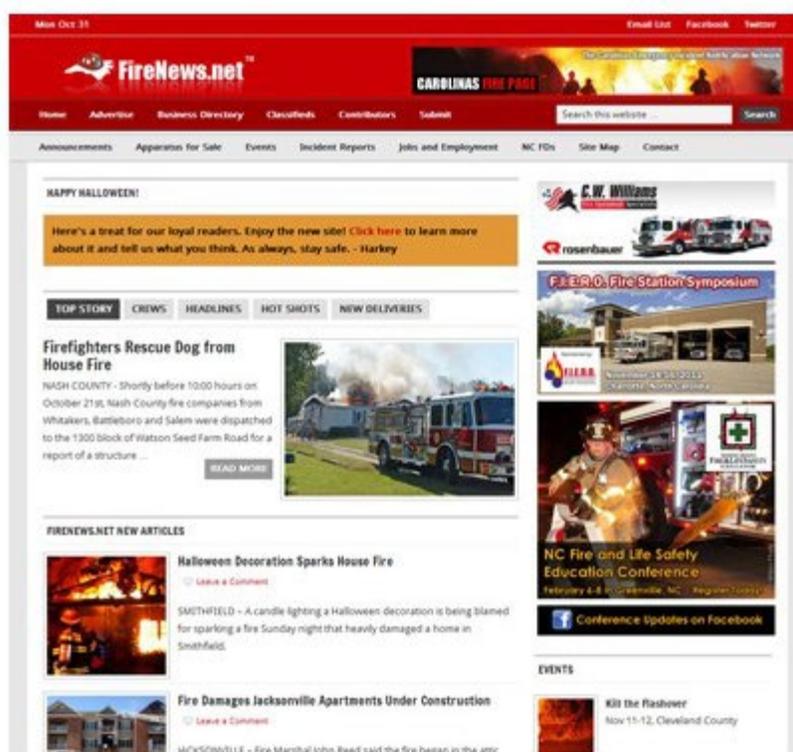
([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

FireNews is All New

11/01/11 169 W, 1 I - + 6 - 9

The premiere web site for North Carolina firefighting and fire service news, FireNews.net, has been replaced with an all-new, all-upgraded version. Operated by Editor-in-Chief Jeff Harkey in Raleigh, it started in May of 2003. Remember those days, when it was located on carolinasfirepage.com? That was a hand-coded site, and was redesigned after a year. The 2004 version was revamped in 2008, when the site moved to a Content Management System (CMS). That added more site flexibility and more publishing control.

As a Halloween treat, the 2011 version debuted yesterday. Among the neat new things is the forthcoming ability for contributors to add directly to the site. Get ready for more reporting! My favorite addition is on the right-side navigation, two widgets showing Recent Comments and Most Commented Articles. Combined with their easiest comment interface to date, the new FireNews.net will be an even better place to both read and discuss fire news. But don't take my word for it...



Great job by Jeff! Having been around CFP since the early days along with seeing Firenews.net grow from inception I am proud to see Jeff has continued to come up with new and exciting ways of offering up news & info.

I have it bookmarked at stop by it several times a day!

Kudos Jeff!

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR CFP[714] ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 11/01/11 - 13:16

Thanks Marsh. We have tried to respond to readers comments and requests from around the state in terms of what they wanted to see. The fact about websites is that they are never "done"; the good ones continue to evolve. Look for more enhancements soon. Thanks!

harkey ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 11/02/11 - 10:47

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.

Update #3 - Guilford County Fire Services Study

11/19/11 989 W - + 16 - 2

November 19

[FireNews.net is reporting](#) that the final report has been released. The 229-page document [is available here](#). They also make an editorial observation about the word "inefficient." It appears in the headline of [this MyFOX8 story](#): "Guilford Volunteer Fire Departments Inefficient, Final Consultant Report Says." Notes the FN Editor, they searched the entire report and the word "inefficient" appears only once, and as a comment about a single department and by that department.

What does conclusions does the report draw? The authors make recommendations as prioritized into five categories:

- Priority 1 - Immediate Internal Safety: No recommendations identified.
- Priority 2 - Legal or Financial Exposure: Recommendations related to governance.
- Priority 3 - Corrects a Service Delivery Issue: Various recommendations, from training to apparatus.
- Priority 4 - Enhances the Delivery of a Service: Various recommendations, from policies to performance measures.
- Priority 5 - A Good Thing to Do: Various recommendations, from service awards to public input.

[Read the report.](#)

--

November 4

Read much of the draft report yesterday. Exceptionally interesting document, though (for me) more for its methodology than its findings. Guilford County's fire departments-- their equipment, facilities, staffing, administration, and even governance documents-- are compared side-by-side, and then folded into a systemic analysis. There's no executive summary yet, as the consultants are still in the process of finalizing the report. The November 3 public comment period was one part of that process. Looks like they're also reviewing for accuracy.

Looks like news reporting on the report/reactions to the report is coming largely from [WFMY news](#). Browse or search their site for more. Haven't found many reader comments, yet. There are a few on the WFMY pages. And a few on this [FireNews.net story](#). Wonder if it's being discussed on Facebook? But imagine the breadth and depth of dayroom conversations that have been happening! And there's both the study to parse, and everything about or surrounding the study. Reminds of the reactions to a [2004 study](#) done in Wake County. (There was also one [done in 1994](#).) Feelings run strong because passions are strong. Would you (could you?) have it any other way?

--

November 3 update

[Here's a copy of the report draft](#) (PDF, 189 pages), as contained in [this WFMY story](#) on the morning after the public meeting. Nearly 300 fire service members and citizens attended the public forum. They expressed themselves and passionately, as the video clip shows. Next question, does the news (does this blog?) do a service or disservice by both sharing and reporting on such drafts? Particularly when officials aren't ready to talk about them? What do you think?

--

November 2

There's an interesting situation unfolding in Guilford County, where a county-commissioned fire service study reportedly contains recommendations including the consolidation of independent fire districts into a single agency. The 200-page document was produced by Emergency Services Consulting International (ECIS) at a cost of \$100,000. There's a public meeting tomorrow night to receive comment on same. [FireNews.net reports](#) on this [WFMY story](#), and with numerous intriguing quotes and citations.

This one's as good a key quote as any of them: "The county currently spends a significant amount of money on twenty layers of administrative oversight and support," states the report. "Numerous chief officers and support staff are required to keep the multiple independent corporations and fire districts operating. A single fire department could eliminate much of this redundancy, permitting these precious resources to be reallocated to improved service delivery."

What are the independent fire departments in Guilford County? Google doesn't find a handy list, so let's eyeball this [Carolinas Fire Page list](#) of county fire stations: Alamance, Climax, Colfax, Fire District 13, Fire District 28, Gibsonville, Guil-Rand, Julian, Kimesville, McLeansville, Mount Hope, Northeast Guilford, Oak Ridge, Piedmont, Pincroft-Sedgefield, Pleasant Garden, Southeast, Stokesdale, Summerfield, and Whitsett. Who did we forget?

Guilford County measures 649 square-miles and has a population of 491,230 people, says Wikipedia. Served by a mess of small departments, and two large ones: Greensboro and High Point. Can't help but get you thinking about Wake County, which measures 857 square-miles but with almost double the population at 900,993. Again, says Wikipedia. We have a healthy mix of municipal and private departments. Totals 23, including Raleigh, if my math is correct. Not including airport.

But so what. Wake County isn't Guilford County, which isn't New Hanover County, where we last heard about efforts at consolidation. What works in one place-- or is recommended in one place, with however seeming similarities-- certainly automatically doesn't work in another. Both Wake and Guilford-- along with other North Carolina counties-- have seen smaller fire districts [impacted by municipal growth](#). Some have joined force or merged into larger (or much larger) entities. Guilford College FD into Greensboro FD in Guilford, Six Forks FD into Bay Leaf FD in Wake, for example.

Sounds like the impact of the report in Guilford County is just starting. Heck, it doesn't appear that the actual report is yet available for public consumption, and current reactions-- including the WFMY story-- are based on a draft version that was obtained. But it's certain to start conversations or continue discussions already started, both there and elsewhere. Cost. Savings. Efficiency. Those things look great these days. Myself, the concept of right-size fire services is more compelling. Best-est, not cheapest. And even that's not quite the right word. Most efficient, maybe?

And there are other rhetorical questions we can ask, in the context of this issue. What's the best way to have conversations on this subject? Who are the best people to make decisions regarding fire services? Maybe I will have some thoughts on those at a later time. Hopefully readers both here and on the other news site will offer their perspectives and challenge mine. I look forward to learning. Best to our friends to the west, and the many way that the report's impact will be worked through.

Here's a next-day story on this, <http://www.digtriad.com/news/article/197..>

Notable are some clarification on the report draft's recommendations. They describe three tiers of major overhaul: no consolidation, regional cooperation; full consolidation, with multiple contractors; full consolidation.

Legeros - 11/02/11 - 19:52

I guess some are currently reading the report and "circling the hook" for now. At first glance (and in my opinion), all fire chiefs and administrators in Wake should review this report. It appears logical and similar to many of the 2004 Tri-Data recommendations for Wake Co. Unfortunately, the recommendation of any form of deconstruction is emotional though (hence the news report video). In reality, there are elements of this report that bear a serious local focus such as the contractual elements related to performance and the overarching determination (as we say...) of the "right size." I must read a little more though.

A.C. Rich - 11/04/11 - 11:37

Mike,
I can not see the 2004 report about Wake County. Was it taken down? Anywhere else we can see it?

Thanks
-Pete

Gitto ([Email](#)) - 11/04/11 - 14:15

Pete, thanks for reporting the broken link(s) on the prior postings. I have restored both the 1994 and 2004 reports, which were previously deleted to save server space. (Thanks for the remote assist, AC.) There's a summary presentation from 2004 that is still absent. I'll work on that one over the next couple days. I also deleted our back-and-forth comments on this, to keep the thread clean.

Legeros - 11/04/11 - 23:43

Mike

Do you have a copy of the 1999 EMS study by Tridata for the county

Thanks

-Pete

Gitto - 11/05/11 - 17:17

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

Beach House Burns in Atlantic Beach

11/01/11 106 W, 1 I - + 6 - 7

Ed Myers took this photo [found by FireNews.Net](#), of a three-story residential building fire in Atlantic Beach this afternoon. (The new FN web site is tops, let me tell you.) ABFD on scene, along with Morehead City FD and Pine Knoll Shores FD. See the [original WCTI story](#) for more photos. And since we're talking Carteret County, we're overdue for a couple updates. We need a picture of MHFD's new medical ambulance bus, and an update on their Station 2 project. Maybe readers will assist. See also this [Carteret County News-Times article](#) for additional coverage.



Ed Myers/WCTI 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'?

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

Vintage Jacksonville LaFrances

11/01/11 61 W, 3 I - + 9 - 6

Found for sale on eBay, three 35mm color slides showing American LaFrance engines in Jacksonville, NC. Top to bottom, left to right: Engine 4, 1963, 1000/500; Engine 1, 1962, 1000/500; Engine 1, 1975 ALF, 1250/500. Wonder if they have any historic or former fire station buildings down that way, either in Jacksonville or on base? Need to pay a visit some time. Click to enlarge:



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.

Apex's New Engine

11/02/11 95 W, 1 I - + 6 - 6

The Apex Fire Department received their new Engine 1 on Friday, October 28. The 2011 E-One Typhoon 1500/750 is an emergency replacement for Engine 3, a 2000 E-One Cyclone pumper. It's a demo unit that will be equipped as a "squad," with both engine and rescue equipment. It will help reduce two other vehicles in the fleet, including Rescue 1. [See prior posting](#).for the back story. Lee Wilson took this picture two days later, but he'll be back to get a properly posed picture. We'll update this posting accordingly. [See more photos](#).

*Lee Wilson photo*

Nice looking rig. Is that the third different color scheme that Apex has on its apparatus? Is this latest one going to be the standard for Apex? Just curious cause I like this one best.

colorblind - 11/02/11 - 17:47

Agreed, CB. Nice looking rig. Since the thing's a demo, what you get is probably what you get. Ancillary question, isn't Apex home to one of the few rigs with Roto-Rays around here? Love the things.

Legeros - 11/02/11 - 19:04

I believe apex rescue 1 had a Roto-Ray on it but the last time I saw the truck it didn't have it one there anymore.

CW - 11/02/11 - 21:13

Yeah, it had a roto-ray.

I remember like it was yesterday when Apex first put the rescue truck in service; "Apex to Rescue 1"; "Rescue 1 answering"; "P.D. unit is advising one of your lights on the front of your truck is loose".

Rotofosho - 11/02/11 - 23:01

former Rescue 1 (HME) is now Rescue 4. The current Rescue 1 was the International chassis rescue truck.

shevais - 11/02/11 - 23:48

Actually it is the fourth color scheme. Rescue 4 is White with red trim, Engine 3 and Rescue 1 White with blue trim and the rest Red with White trim. About ten years ago I thought perhaps they were trying for a different scheme with each new purchase.

stretch - 11/03/11 - 01:20

I think 2001 should be 2011...just a typo I'm sure.

rookie - 11/03/11 - 08:23

The former Rescue 1 was an older Ford Mini Rescue from Durham Highway. This truck responds to all wrecks within in Stations 1,2,and 3 districts, where Rescue 1 would be dispatched. In Station 1's district, Ladder 3 will respond for man power with Engine 1. It was put in service on 11/3 and ran its first call, a pin in off of Barker Rd. with Engine 2, Battalion 1, Car 1, EMS 41, EMS 9?, District 2, Engine 4 (set up landing zone for wake med).

JTJ - 11/04/11 - 15:44

Thats a haul. Glad the truck works well for Apex. Congrats fellows.

911 - 11/04/11 - 20:46

With Apex, Fuquay, Holly springs, Stony Hill, and Garner recently getting new apparatus, and of course Wake county helped with the Funding on those new apparatus, why is it that Raleigh has to put off apparatus replacement for another year. Raleigh put it off last year and this year.

crs - 11/05/11 - 11:47

Raleigh fire is not funded by the county. The county replaces apparatus at 20 years. Does Raleigh have trucks even reserves that are 20 years old? These departments you mentioned had apparatus that old or older. Then if it is a town department it pays a certain percentage of the cost. Last I checked fuquay was working on the specs for another new engine.

911 - 11/05/11 - 12:53

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.

Raleigh Fire Museum Closed Nov. 12

11/02/11 98 W - + 11 - 2

Due to the completion of construction work at the Keeter Training Center, the Raleigh Fire Museum will not be open on the second Saturday of this month, November 12, as previously announced. The Raleigh Fire Department Historical society apologizes for any inconvenience.

Please plan to visit the Raleigh Fire Museum on December 10, the second Saturday next month. The museum will be open during its regular hours from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The location is 105 Keeter Center Drive, Raleigh. Admission is free.

To learn more about the museum, please visit <http://raleighfirehistory.org/museum>.

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.

Garner FD Softball Tournament, Saturday, Nov. 12

11/02/11 160 W - + 5 - 10

Registration closes Friday for the Garner Fire Department's first-ever softball tournament on Saturday, November 12. The line-up currently includes Wake EMS, Garner FD, Clayton PD/NC State Highway Patrol, Zebulon police and fire, Nash County fire and rescue, Lee County fire and rescue, and Erwin FD.

The location is Clayton Recreation Park, [715 Amelia Church Road](#), Clayton, NC. The start time is 9:00 a.m. and there's just one day of play. Entry fee is \$200 per team. The format is double-elimination, following USSSA rules.

Teams may be comprised of two different public safety agencies. And agencies may have more than one team. Teams can be coed, but will play by male rules. They are limited to 16 players per team. Due to facility capacity, the tournament is limited to the first 16 teams that register. Other planned activities include a raffle and a home run derby with cash prizes.

[Visit this web site](#) for more information, including sponsorship forms.

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.

October Episode of FireWatch

11/02/11 81 W, 1 I - + 7 - 6

The [October 2011 episode](#) of the Raleigh Fire Department's cable television series FireWatch is now available online. In the latest episode, they learn more about the USAR team, they look back at Fire Prevention Week, and learn more about the Firefighters' Burned Children Fund. FireWatch airs on the RTN-11 cable television channel on Monday (12:30 p.m.) Friday (11:00 a.m.), Saturday (11:30 a.m., 6:30 p.m.) and Sunday (2:30 p.m., 8:30 a.m.). Or view [archived episodes of FireWatch](#).



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.

Morehead City Ambulance Bus

11/02/11 132 W, 1 I - + 13 - 4

FireNews.net has the skinny on Morehead City's new medical ambulance bus. The town received the thing in October, funded entirely by a \$357,000 homeland security grant. The 42-foot vehicle can carry a combination of 12 patients on stretchers and 10 patients on wheelchairs, or 23 ambulatory patients in seats. Though operated by Morehead City Fire & EMS, the unit will respond outside the town as requested. It's one of five in the state. (Where are the others? Wake County EMS. New Hanover Regional EMS. Mecklenburg EMS. Who else?) **[Read the FireNews.net story](#)** for more. See also other articles (and reader comments) from the *News-Times* and *WITN*. (There's nothing quite as interesting as responses and reactions from Joe Q. Public to the machinery of emergency services...)



FireNews.net photo

I believe Asheville Fire Department operates a bus similar to this one.

Here's some more information: <http://www.ashevillenc.gov/Departments/F..>

David - 11/02/11 - 19:31

Thanks David! Here's a picture found on Google: <http://www.msvehicles.com/sites/default/..>

Legeros - 11/02/11 - 19:48

Guilford County EMS has one as well.

<http://www.sartinmab.com/bios/GUILFORD/g..>

Will - 11/02/11 - 21:05

There are 7 of MAB buses in NC.

Brunswick County

Guilford County

New Hanover County

Mecklenburg County (2)

Morehead City

Wake County

<http://www.sartinmab.com/newMAP/newmap.h..>

Chris Sartin ([Email](#)) - 11/03/11 - 15:14

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

One Hundred Fires of the Raleigh Fire Department

11/02/11 225 W, 1 I - + 11 - 3

What would a list of Raleigh's biggest fires look like? And not just the top ten or top twenty, but a full one hundred? That was a question posed in an August posting, after obtaining a Milwaukee Fire Department history book. Here's the answer in the form of a document, culled from incident descriptions contained in my Raleigh Fire Department timelines.

They date from June 1816 to July 2011. They represent the biggest or historically significant fires in the city's history. Or at least, the first attempt at crafting such a list. There are disclaimers, the least of which is the absolutely likelihood that one or more "barn burners" isn't listed in the above timelines and thus has escaped - Mike's notice.

There are vast differences in the narrative styles, and even the amount of incident details. The list was also compiled rather quickly, and could benefit from a more methodical comparison of incidents against each other by decade or era. (Here's a post from 2009 that talks about that.) But as a first stab, it certainly serves its purpose. e.g., here's what such a list looks like and some notes on how it was made. We'll work on a better or more definitive version at a later time. Read the PDF document, or click to read:



For the Wakefield Brush fire was Falls not first on scene?

observer - 11/04/11 - 12:03

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ Textile

Get on the Bus, Gus

11/02/11 80 W, 1 I - + 8 - 4

Google is your friend, especially when finding images of other medical ambulance buses serving in our state, following a [recent delivery to Morehead City](#). Top to bottom, left to right: Guilford County EMS, New Hanover Regional EMS, Mecklenburg County EMS, Brunswick County EMS, Asheville Fire Department/Buncombe County EMS, and Wake County EMS. Five as built by Sartin Services. Who built Buncombe's unit? Click to enlarge:



Sartin Services x 4, News 14, City of Asheville photos

Just drop off the key, Lee...

Duda ([Email](#)) - 11/03/11 - 09:23

Asheville's unit was built by Matthews Specialty Vehicles in Greensboro.

BFD1151 - 11/04/11 - 21:04

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.

Antiques From Lee County

11/06/11 53 W, 2 I - + 7 - 8

Photographer Lee Wilson last week made [some stops in Chatham and Lee County](#), for apparatus photos and other explorations. Along the way he found these two beauties. Top photo is Deep River's 1953 Chevrolet/Rowland pumper. Bottom photo is Cape Fear's 1953 Ford/Oren pumper.



Lee Wilson photos

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

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Parked for Parking

11/06/11 56 W, 1 I - + 8 - 10

Reporting from the road. Saw this at Miami International Airport. Staged mini-pumper of the Miami-Dade Fire Department's [aviation division](#). They have two stations at that airport. Wonder how many other unmanned units are staged as such? Guess they ride there and check the truck each day, week, cycle, etc. Click to enlarge:



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'?

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

Miami Mystery Tower / NAS Richmond

11/06/11 283 W, 3 I - + 17 - 6

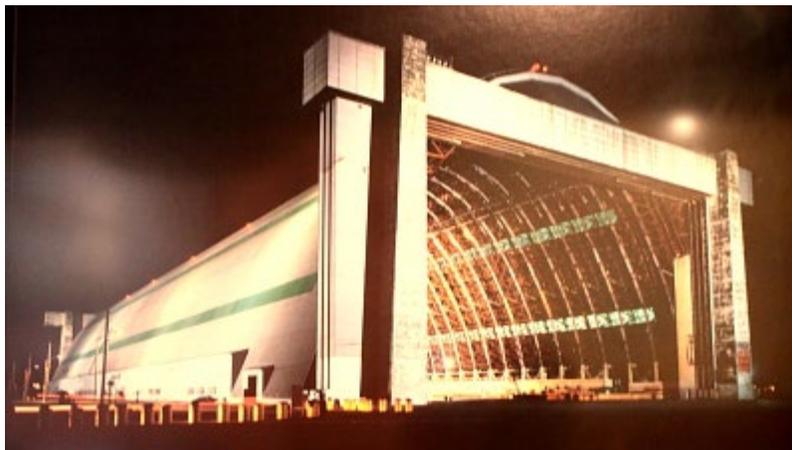
Should you visit the Miami Zoo, located some 45 minutes south of the city, you'll notice a tall, thin, concrete structure just over the trees. Colored light yellow. With antennas on the top. Follow the signs to the [Gold Coast Railroad Museum](#), and you'll see the thing get closer. Park beside the museum store, and the tower will be beside you.



What is said structure? Why, it's a door support for a blimp hanger, built back when the property was known as Naval Air Station Richmond. The lighter-than-air base operated during World War II. (Noted one of the histories about the place, the base fire station was one of the first buildings completed on the site.)



The hangar was one of three, and they were the world's largest wooded timbered hangars. They measured 157 feet high to the top of the truss arch, 257 feet wide to the inside of the truss span, and 297 wide on the outside. They were each 1088 feet long, and covered an area of seven (!) acres. Alas, their use was short-lived, as all three were destroyed during a hurricane a fire in 1945.



There's tons [more history on the museum site](#). Or see a few [more photos of vintage photos](#) from the (free) historical exhibit that's located inside the museum store. Definitely worth a stop, especially if you've read about or have an interest in the blimp base outside Elizabeth City. [Read some of that history](#), from a prior posting.

Key West Mystery Towers / Missile Launch Site

11/06/11 123 W, 1 I - + 12 - 0

Here's another set of interesting structures, these found at the end of Government Road in Key West and on the northern perimeter of Key West International Airport. These towers and other structures were part of a HAWK missile battery, one of four established on the island during the Cuban Missile Crisis. The web site www.missileskeywest.com has the full history. [Here are more photos](#) from our vacation explorations. The property is adjacent to a public park and is presently used for purposes including dog walking, a paintball course, and what looks like municipal storage. Can't think of a tie to the fire service for this posting, alas.



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'?

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

Big Pile Burns in Bertie

11/06/11 87 W, 1 I - + 15 - 1

The *Roanoke-Chowan News Herald* has posted this photo of a seven-department auto recycling plant fire on Highway 11 in Aulander. They are reporting that Aulander, Millennium, Lewiston-Woodville, Roxobel, Kelford, and Ahoskie Rural fire departments are on scene. The late afternoon blaze was reportedly contained to a trash pile containing by-products of the automobile recycling process. Water is being shuttled to the scene. Might be a many-day operation, what do you think? [Read the story.](#)



Cal Bryant/Roanoke-Chowan News Herald

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.

Scotland Neck House Fire Video

11/07/11 68 W - + 9 - 5

Found via Google on YouTube from user cloudwalker501. Four-minute clip of November 2 house fire in Scotland Neck that killed an elderly resident. Looks late into the incident. Very good lighting, and presumably all from the scene lights. One of these days we'll make the leap to motion pictures. [Here's a WRAL story](#) about the early-morning blaze blamed on a kerosene heater.

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](#))

This Morning's Car Versus House

11/08/11 61 W, 1 I - + 14 - 1

The latest vehicle-into-building resulted in minor injuries and subsequent charges for the fleeing driver. What looks like a good-sized sedan crashed into a vacant house near East Cabarrus and Alston streets just before midnight. [WRAL has posted this story](#) and a pair of photos, once of which is shown below.



WRAL 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'?

Morning Reading - November 8, 2011

11/08/11 192 W - + 11 - 6

Good morning Miami, er, Raleigh. Returning to town today, after a few days in Florida. Included some time in the Keys, and finding and researching former and historic fire stations in Key West. Was relaxing. More later.

[Wake County Firefighter's Association meeting tonight](#) - This is your reminder. Rolesville Fire Station is the location. Meal and meeting.

[Holly Springs to get new fire station](#) - *News & Observer* story with the latest on that project. [Here's our last posting](#) on same, with a linked demolition video and linked photos to the current temporary Station 2.

[Crowder's Mountain Engine 55 accident](#) - FireNews.net story from last week. Two firefighters transported with minor injuries. Engine 55 was returning from a call. It sustained an estimated \$150,000 worth of damage.

[Virginia Beach apparatus accident, seven injured](#) - FireTruckBlog.com story from last week. Three firefighters transported as precaution after collision with car. Four people in the car also transported, one with serious injuries. Believe Firegeezzer was observing last week that these seem to be daily things around the country, apparatus accidents at intersections. Have they always been happening this often?

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.

Durham's New Squad 2

11/08/11 101 W, 2 I - + 14 - 3

Our friends in Durham have passed along a couple photos of their new Squad 2, now in service at Fire Station 2. Three have been delivered, all 2011 Ford F-250 Super Duty light trucks. The utility bodies from the old squad trucks have been remounted, and the trucks updated with new paint, graphics, and lights. Squad 1 and Squad 2 are already in service. Squad 4 will soon be in service. The squad companies are used as first responder units in the busier inner-city district, and also respond to working fires.



Durham has gotten some pretty nice looking apparatus recently.

charlie - 11/09/11 - 02:42

I am surprised Raleigh doesn't do something like this. Way to go Durham. Nice looking rigs!

George - 11/09/11 - 10:22

Having a truck dedicated for medical responses tends to be a volunteer concept. Fuel is a cost of doing business. I'd rather have a crew of three or four and a large truck to protect us anyway. There other ways to save money.

Money - 11/09/11 - 14:11

Nice looking rig Durham, congrats on the new deliveries!

You typically see BLS ambulances in the volunteer world because they are cash cows, many all volunteer departments to the north can afford to pay for their super nice fire apparatus in full due to the amount of money they take home from BLS transports, that is the only reason they do them because I know they hate EMS calls as much as we do! Fuel is a cost of doing business, but as with all businesses if you can cut down on the cost of doing business be it your fixed costs like salaries or variable costs like fuel consumption it creates more money for other things like an additional firefighter on some busier engines.

What are some of the ways you can see the fire service in this area saving more money, Money? Always a good thing to look at and consider with the tight economy!

McK - 11/09/11 - 16:14

@ money,
the squads do respond to all medical calls and vehicle accidents (along with the engine) within their stations first due district. They also respond to all structure fires, vehicle accidents with entrapment, rescue calls (building collapse, trench, confined space...) and Hazardous material incidents within their respective battalion. The squad is staffed with two EMT-I's. Yes a crew of 4 would be nice, however it is better to send the smaller truck out instead of placing wear and tear on a larger more expensive truck. The squad also allows the engine (staffed with 4) to remain in service to respond to secondary calls, rather than having a engine coming in from another district. So there really is no loss in protection rather a gain, having a large truck does not equal better protection.

BCFD - 11/09/11 - 16:38

Ok bcf, I'll stand beside an engine and you stand beside this pickup and we'll let another car plow into the other side. My chances of walking away area alot better. DFD busiest unit ran 2000, that's not that busy. Sorry. Use the people to ensure your apparatus are staffed up. Have a good maintenance program for your trucks. Departments do it every day and run triple the amount.

Money - 11/09/11 - 23:22

OK Money, I believe that you are missing the point. BCFD is talking about life safety protection to the public, not personal protection afforded by a large piece of equipment. If you realized the valid points that he mentioned, your response is unwarranted. First, he mentions DFR using the squads primarily for medical first response, freeing the other companies to respond to fire/rescue calls. Also, it is mentioned that the engines are already staffed with 4, which is better than most others. Are you looking for an FDNY engine staffed with 5? That must be where you are running on an engine since you claim 2000 isn't busy. With these tough economic times and more public awareness of costs, at least someone is trying something outside of the box. Just like the quint concept. Developed to trim staffing (or optimize) and reduce cost. It works well some places, but not in others. Quit bashing and be thankful you have a job, and not layed off like some cities are doing.

Charlie H - 11/10/11 - 10:46

ok Charlie, you are right (not really), but ok. 2000 isn't busy. keep passing bonds for parks and greenways though when you talk about money, ignorance is bliss. Boooooo!!! to the bean counters who have no idea!

I'm self employed, so I will always have a job. FD's always accomodate, PD's stand up and fight, which is why their retirement is so much better.

Money - 11/10/11 - 12:40

Let me correct, retired and self employed.

Money - 11/10/11 - 12:41

Play nice, please.

Legeros - 11/10/11 - 12:51

What exactly do you think busy is, Money? I think 1% of FD's in this country have units that run anywhere close to this 6000 annual call volume you speak of. I think the squads are a great idea and BCFD hit the nail right on the head. Having 5 guys on an engine on an EMS call is a waste of manpower and apparatus. Squads meet their needs and sounds like a practical idea for the given situation. I'll take the squad and

just stay out of the roadway. Problem solved!!!

Frick - 11/11/11 - 16:42

If your doing cpr the right way you need more than two guys on a truck and two medics.

CPR - 11/11/11 - 18:58

@CPR,

Durham County EMS sends two medic trucks on a cardiac arrest call, also many times if they are in the station the engine housed with the squad will also respond.

BCFD - 11/11/11 - 19:24

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

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

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

Old Apparatus at CCCC ESTC

11/08/11 106 W, 1 I - + 10 - 1

Holy acronyms, Batman! That's the Central Carolina Community College [Emergency Services Training Center](#), located outside Sanford and where photographer Lee Wilson this week found a number of retired rigs from around our area. (The training center occupies the site of the old [Sanford-Lee County airport](#), which closed in 2000.)

Shown left to right, top to bottom are Asheboro's 1971 Ward LaFrance pumper, North Chatham's 19?? Ford/Howe pumper, Sanford's 1968 American LaFrance AeroChief (Truck 215), Sanford's 19?? American LaFrance pumper (Engine 216), and Dunn's 1975 Mack/1976 Howe pumper (Engine 1532). [See more photos](#), or see the whole series of his recent [Lee and Chatham county explorations](#).



Lee Wilson photos

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

Scenes From South Florida

11/09/11 192 W, 6 I - + 3 - 9

Top to bottom, left to right. **Wildland fire apparatus** seen at Everglades National Park, at a location called "fire cache" on the map. About fifteen minutes from the Homestead, FL, entrance. **Airport crash truck** in Marathon, FL. One of two rigs, the second was a quick-attack mini-pumper. The town has two fire stations, this one with bays facing both the airport and Highway 1. **GMC/Saulsbury monster pumper-tanker** operated by the county fire department. No quick-dump on the thing. They don't use drop tanks in those parts. The roads are too narrow for shuttles, and there are drafting sources around every corner. Said one firefighter: homeowners know that we'll be driving across their lawns, if they have a fire. **American LaFrance 700 series aerial ladder** in Marathon, ex-New Jersey. Still runs fine, still passes ladder tests. Now a parade piece. Wife entirely amused that I spotted the thing in the rear bay, while approaching the station on the highway. It's called Tiller Vision. **The Turtle Hospital**, also in Marathon. Sea turtle rescue group. To the Turtle Mobile! **No swimming, no kidding.** Everglades National Park. Click to enlarge:



"Tiller vision" – love it :)

Paul - 11/09/11 - 09:30

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.

Raleigh Professional Fire Fighters Association Semi-Annual Fundraising Concert

11/11/11 314 W - + 7 - 8

Press release. On Sunday, April 29, the [Raleigh Professional Fire Fighters Association](#) (RPFFA) will host The Temptations Review featuring Dennis Edwards, with special guests The Embers. Show time is 6:30 p.m. at Dorton Arena, at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds. Seating is general admission and the doors will open at 5:30 p.m. The RPFFA is a 501c5 non-profit organization and this concert is a semi-annual fundraiser.

Representatives will be calling area residents with an offer to purchase concert tickets. They will identify themselves as such, and all calls are scripted and will be recorded. Callers will not be representing or identifying themselves as City of Raleigh Fire Department personnel. The fundraising does not directly support, or affect the services provided by the City of Raleigh Fire Department.

Callers will not ask for payment over the phone and they do not accept credit cards. Checks are preferred, and PayPal will be accepted upon request. Those who agree to purchase tickets will receive a second phone call, 30 minutes later, to verify the purchase. Upon confirmation, the Raleigh Professional Fire Fighters Association will mail the tickets, accompanied by a thank-you letter, a supporter sticker, and a return envelope for sending payment. The RPFFA works on the honor system, and sends the tickets prior to receiving payment.

Activities supported and funded by the Raleigh Professional Fire Fighters Association are numerous. They include Camp Celebrate, a weekend camp for children ages 7 to 15 who have survived traumatic burn injuries; financial support for the Salvation Army, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and The Jaycee Burn center at UNC Hospital; creating awareness of firefighter injuries, occupational illness, and the many hazards to which firefighters are exposed; and programs to create awareness for the safety of the public and firefighters.

[Read entire press release](#), to learn more about the fundraiser and the Raleigh Professional Fire Fighters Association.

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.

Raleigh Fire Museum Closed / City Museum Program Postponed on Nov. 12

11/11/11 150 W - + 5 - 9

The regular scheduled opening of the [Raleigh Fire Museum](#) on Saturday, November 12, has been canceled, due to the completion of construction work at the Keeter Training Center. The Raleigh Fire Department Historical society apologizes for any inconvenience. Please plan to visit the museum on December 10, the second Saturday next month. The museum will be open during its regular hours from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Admission is free.

Also, the previously announced planned special program on Saturday, November 12, at the Raleigh City Museum on the history of firefighting in Raleigh has been postponed. The City Museum event was cancelled some weeks ago, and our press releases were modified at that time. This is a last-minute double-check, for people who may not have heard. Again, please accept our apologies for any inconvenience. The program will be rescheduled at a later date.

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.

UPDATED: Fire Commission Meeting Notice & Documents - Nov. 17, 2011

11/11/11 573 W - + 11 - 2

Updated November 19

Highlights

Note that the minutes from Fire Commission meetings are increasingly detailed. See the draft minutes at the next minute, for more details on what happened at this meeting.

- Fire Chief Fred Stough was introduced, the new chief of the Wake-New Hope Fire Department.
- The Equipment Committee provided overviews of both an SCBA replacement for Fairview FD, and a turnout gear purchase. The latter will be a joint bid for over 500 sets. The county is joining with Raleigh FD, Cary FD, Raleigh-Durham Airport FD, Chapel Hill FD, Fayetteville FD, and Concord FD. Savings of \$200 to \$300 per set.
- Some administrative issues were discussed, such as the commission's Rules of Procedures. The decision made to appoint a committee to review them, and see if there's value in any changes to the language. Also the Chair is working on appointing chairs for subcommittees that don't have.
- The north region fire chiefs requested the commission (a.) acknowledge that health and wellness of fire department members is a priority and essential for the vitality of all county fire departments and (b.) support consideration of funding for annual member physical evaluations for all contract departments. Both Bay Leaf FD and Stony Hill FD provided information about their programs, and how they've help discover health issues with members. The commission made the decision to survey all fire chiefs, ask for their opinions and information any programs they are using.
- The County Commissioner was asked about the status of issues with Eastern Wake FD. He expects them to be resolved, and with actions including greater county involvement in their operations.

Notice

The upcoming meeting of the Wake County Fire Commission is Thursday, November 17, at 7:00 p.m. The location is the Wake County EMS Training Facility, in the lower level of the Wake County Commons Building, [4011 Cary Drive](#). As the agenda and other documents are made available, we'll add them to this posting.

What is the fire commission? What's their role in county fire service leadership? [See this related posting](#) from earlier this year, where Messrs. Legeros, Rich, and Price presented an overview of fire service leadership in Wake County. Or consider attending the meeting. They're pretty interesting. Casual dress. Hawaiian shirts are even fine.

Agenda

- Call meeting to order
 - Invocation
 - Roll of Members Present
 - Approval of Agenda
- Minutes
 - Adoption of Minutes for September 22, 2011, Regular Meeting
- Regular Agenda
 - Consider Approval of Calendar Year 2012 Meeting Dates
 - Apparatus Committee Report
 - Equipment Committee
 - Update on Turnout Gear
 - SCBA Units for Fairview Fire Department
- Information Agenda
 - Fire Tax Financial Report
 - Wake County Fire Commission Rules of Procedure
 - Post Incident Review Training Class

- Chair Report
- Fire and Emergency Management Director Report
- Other Business
- Public Comments
 - 30 minutes maximum time allotted, Maximum 3 minutes per person
- Adjournment - Next Meeting January 20, 2012

The [documents](#):

1. Agenda
 - See file: 11-17-2011 Agenda.pdf
2. Draft Minutes of the September 22, 2011, Regular Meeting
 - See file: Draft Minutes, Sep 22, 2011.pdf
3. Calendar Year 2012 Meeting Dates
 - See file: Calendar Year 2012 Meeting Schedule.doc
4. Financial Report
 - See file: Fire Comm Finance Reports - 2011.11.10 (FY12 YTD).pdf
&
5. Wake County Fire Commission Rules of Procedure
 - See files:
 - Rules of Procedure,With Revised September 08 Committee Rules.pdf
 - Rules of Procedure clarifications.docx
 - Responses to October 21 Inquiry _ Bob Stagg.docx
 - Closed Sessions.docx
 - Wake County Fire Commission Committee Membership, For December 2010 Update.pdf
6. Post Incident Review Training Class
 - See file: Post Incident Review Course Flyer 12-2011.pdf

Handful of highlights added.

Legeros - 11/19/11 - 11:17

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

"Bodies" Everywhere

11/13/11 225 W, 1 I - + 13 - 2

'Twas the scene in Selma this morning, where several fire and EMS departments participated in a mass-casualty drill. The scenario was a railroad crossing collision of a fuel tanker and a passenger train. The location was behind one of the fuel farms on Oak Roads. The props included a box car filled with victims both injured and vocal. After briefings at a nearby school, actual calls to the Johnston County emergency communications started after 9:00 a.m. (That gave them some practice as well.)

Yours Truly attended for a couple hours, and has posted [some preliminary photos](#). (There's a minimum of fake blood this time, though we'll how the final set looks. Warning, these photos contain depictions of simulated injuries...) Good practice for everyone, and even this incident photographer. Though in the real deal, Camera Boy would likely be (a.) back a distance from the action and (b.) using his camera more discretely around victims. (Plus keeping the captured blood and victim's faces to a minimum.)

Who participated in today's event? Here's a best guess: Selma FD, Smithfield FD, Wilson's Mills FD, Pine Level FD, Micro FD, Bethany FD, Thanksgiving FD, Selma EMS, Smithfield EMS, Clayton EMS, 50-210 EMS, Four Oaks EMS, Johnston EMS, Selma PD, Johnston SO, Johnston FM, Johnston EM, North Carolina EM, Red Cross.



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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Morning Reading - November 13, 2011

11/13/11 345 W - + 4 - 9

Good morning Raleigh. Nice and bright outside as I sit slightly tilting right, due to my office chair missing a screw. (Same might be said of said blogger!) Sunlight and lovely leaf colors compel, while computer tasks tempt. Photos to process here, history essay to finish there. And always the correspondence that's never quite timely enough. What to do, what to do.

- [Thursday's house fire in Wake Forest](#) - FireNews has posted an incident summary and a couple photos from Countryman Court. E2, E3, L1 dispatched, along with New Hope, Rolesville, and Falls units.
- [Friday's house fire in Cary](#) - WTVD had their chopper overhead that one on Annadale Drive. They haven't posted the video, nor more than a single photo. Two alarms there. Happened around lunch time.
- [Morrisville has budget windfall](#) - *Cary News* story about a budget surplus, and the town's possible plans for spending same. Three firefighter positions have been put on hold, they note. And another quint is needed.
- [Where to apply for a job](#) - Facebook posting of mine, asking a question asked by a young urban firefighter who is considering a move to North Carolina. If you've friended me, go read the thing and offer your two cents. (Discussing here is probably problematic. Us versus them, someone versus someone else. Comparison-based chats seem to start arguments on the blog.)
- [Chile today, but getting warming](#) - Statter911 posted this nifty pre-arrival video from Orsono City in Chile. The videographer even goes inside with a garden hose! The firefighting techniques look similar to the states. The reader comments include a discussion of how the Euro-style apparatus hose reels work.
- [Fort Lauderdale, Key West historic fire stations](#) - Photos from myself, from our trip last week. Active or retired engine houses older than 50 years, plus a couple other interesting ones. Two planned for replacement next year in Lauderdale, and a two-story station in Key West that was converted to single-story! How crazy is that?

Wake Forest's new website has a few more pictures. <http://www.wakeforestfire.com>

Mike - 11/13/11 - 18:36

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.

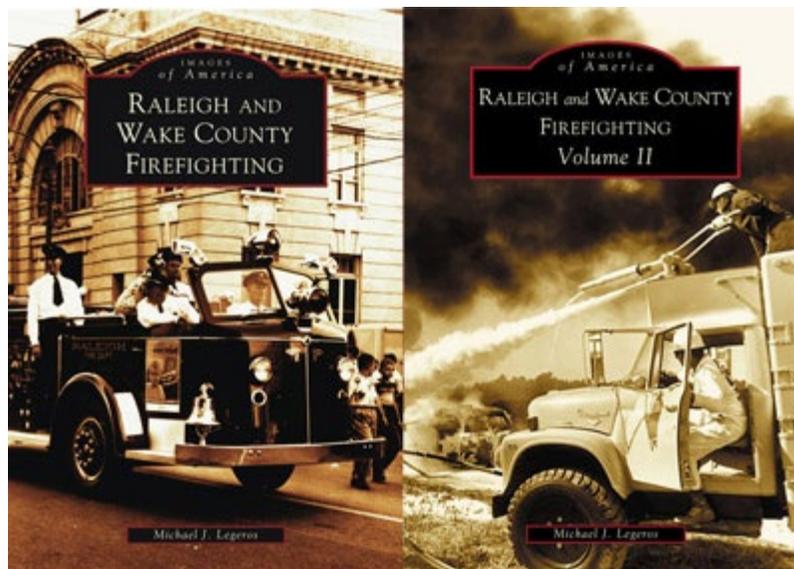
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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.

Great Mistakes

11/13/11 496 W, 3 I - + 13 - 2

Had a conversation recently about my experiences authoring my [Raleigh & Wake County Firefighting books](#). Note the word "authoring," which I prefer over the word "writing." Those books were photo histories, if you will, and the amount of "writing" was comparatively minimal. Research was a bigger part of that process, and the months (and later years) of that work resulted in a nice, long list of historical facts. Most of my facts were correct, but there were some errors. My "big stack of data" contained mistakes and some of which made their way into those books. (Yours Truly was but an aspiring historian at this point, and with minimal experience as a researcher. He didn't know what he didn't know, neither with regard to specific points or larger contextual issues that would help spot specific goofs.)



What were some of the whoppers? The most egregious is probably the claim that Sherwood Brockwell, Raleigh's first full-time fire chief, was also the first full-time fire chief in the country. Wrong! That one was called to the author's attention by a seasoned reader at the Baltimore Fire Expo, during my book sale at the Sunday flea market. He cited several departments that had full-time fire chiefs many years or even decades before Raleigh. (Where did that misstatement originate? It was drawn from a single source, a book about the history of Raleigh that was published maybe two decades ago. Based on subsequent research, the author of that book may have meant Brockwell was the *youngest* fire chief in America at the time. That statement was made at the time of his appointment and training. Was it true? Don't know!)



There were a few other gross mistakes in both books. In the first volume, there's a photo of Old Station 6 that isn't Old Station 6. Wrong building. Didn't catch that one for years, and despite having had a newspaper clipping showing the correct building. The wrong building at 2515 Fairview simply looks like an old fire station. The correct building at 2519 Fairview Road is right beside it, and looks nothing like a former fire station. Nor should it, since the one-story former drug store was only rented for a few years)



There were quite a few smaller errors, notably names and dates to be tweaked. Some were corrected in the 2004 reprinting of the first volume. Others may see correction in future prints. For those keeping score at home, here's the complete list of corrections for [Volume I](#) and [Volume II](#). Correct your own copies as desired. (Correcting errors on web pages and blog posts is infinite easier. More on that subject at a later time.) Next question, what's the best way to write such books and guarantee no errors? The answer, from a veteran Images of America author, is simple: don't write books.

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.

Today's House Fire in Durham

11/14/11 29 W, 1 I - + 6 - 10

Aerial photos of a Durham house fire on Fletchers Chapel Road. [See more](#), from WTVD. No other incident information at present.



WTVD photo

anybody know the run card for this fire.

charlie - 11/15/11 - 17:58

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

Vintage Photo of Hickory City Hall

11/15/11 121 W, 1 I - + 10 - 3

Found for sale on eBay, here's a splendid shot of the Hickory Municipal Building back in the day. The postcard is from the Albertype Company in Brooklyn, NY. The building was built or more likely completed in 1922. Charles Hook of Charlotte was the architect. The two-story fire station had two bays. Looks like the fire alarm bell was also atop the structure. The fire department relocated in 1961 and City Hall moved in 1977. At last check, the building was used as a community theater. Hickory also has a second former firehouse in the 1400 block of 1st Avenue SW, old Station 3. Need dates for that one's operation. See Mike's [database on former firehouses](#). Click to enlarge:



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'?

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

More Former Fire Stations

11/15/11 197 W, 3 I - + 13 - 3

Speaking of former firehouse buildings, reader Lee Kennedy has passed along these photos from the eastern side of the state They're queued for addition to my [former firehouse database](#). Top photo is the old Hickory Grove fire station in Bladen County, located in Highway 210 near Highway 701, near Garland. Building appears to be an old school, which a sliding-track door down the middle. Two bays on right, and one one the left, facing the highway. Their new station is to the left of this building, facing Highway 201. Dates of service not known.

Bottom left is the old Chadbourn-Klondyke fire station in Columbus Station, located in the 200 block of East 1st Avenue. They've moved across the street to a nine-bay (!) building in the 200 block of N. Wilson Avenue. Dates of service not known. The old building is occupied by the public works department, with bays converted into doors and used by a Masonic Lodge or similar organization. Bottom right is the old Vandemere fire station in Pamlico County, located on Pennsylvania Avenue. Their new station is on the same streets, a few blocks down. Dates of service not known. Thanks Lee! Click to enlarge:



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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Web Site: (optional)

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.

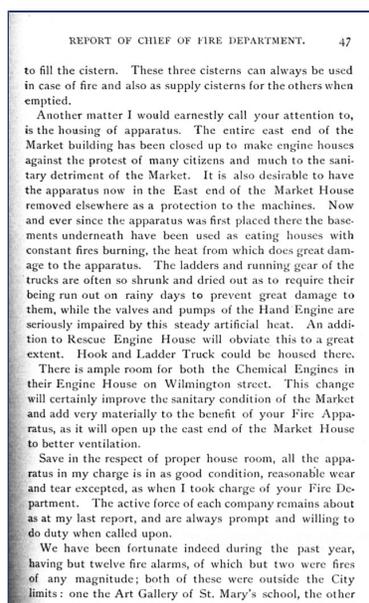
Small print: All html tags except and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Running The Rigs Out on Rainy Days, 1885

11/15/11 200 W, 1 I - + 5 - 10

In days of old, when crews were bold, and motor trucks hadn't been invented, wooden fire apparatus required maintenance to keep them hydrated. Below is an annual report excerpt from 1885, where Chief Engineer Thomas W. Blake reported that apparatus stored in the basement of the Market House were being damaged by the heat of the "eating houses" that also shared the structure.

He noted "The ladders and running gear of the trucks are often so shrunk and dried out as to require their being run out on rainy days to prevent great damage to them, while the valves and pumps of the Hand Engine are seriously impaired by the steady artificial heat." Click once or twice to enlarge and see the excerpt:



Said apparatus was all hand-pulled, and would have included the Hook & Ladder Company's 1872 service ladder truck, the Victor Fire Company's 1875 Rumsey & Company hand engine, and the Bucket & Ladder Company's bucket and ladder truck. [Here's a 37-page history](#) in PDF format about the Raleigh Fire Department in the 1880s and 1890s. Perhaps readers versed in wagons can tell more about their maintenance needs.

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.

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.

What We See is What We Think

11/18/11 498 W, 1 I - + 13 - 2

My wife will occasionally ask of an incident, do they really need that many fire trucks? Hers is an interesting question, because she's an insider in the fire service. She knows quite a bit more than the average citizen about their *motus operandi*. Yet she still has that question from time to time, in those odd moments when the response strikes her as disproportional to the perceived need. Key word, perceived.

Now let's look at this picture from the *News & Observer* last week. Police tactical squad in action in Chapel Hill. Katelyn Ferral snapped the shot. From the photojournalism perspective, it's a great photo. It conveys action. It's not a static shot. There's "happening" happening in the picture. (Alas, I am not versed enough in the language of the craft to fully articulate all the reasons. My gut is helping to feed my head here.)



Katelyn Ferral/News & Observer photo

And it's a photo taken on the streets of Chapel Hill. That's the college town that's just up the road, for anyone unfamiliar with the Raleigh-Durham metropolitan area. Would we call it a sleepy college town? Probably not, but the place is still small enough to add hefty contextual weight to the image.

Thus it shouldn't surprise anyone that the picture has caused heartburn. Even before the first news cycle finished, the outcome of that front-page photo-- reactions to the specific picture, as well as the incident itself-- was preordained. Many questions would be asked of the police department and along familiar lines: did the really need that many guns / that much force / those particular tactics?

This posting, however, is not an invitation to debate and discuss tactics. That's being done elsewhere and in varying flavors. There are probably even law enforcement forums where the thing is being examined as well. (Do officers quarterback the way firefighters do, do you suppose?) And let's be frank even if our name isn't: police protection is a pretty big apple to the oranges of fire protection.

Law enforcement (and the legal authority behind it) is the one system in our daily lives designed to, well, police ourselves. Thus there's a whole component of rights, power, authority, and such. So it's going to color both our perceptions and realities. (Uh oh, Jack Nicholson's speech from *A Few Good Men* is bubbling as my brain ponder the phrase "use of force." Better stop before we start doing celebrity impersonations.)

Where now with this posting? Do we discuss reputation management, which is a favorite topic of my friend Dave Statter [and his blog](#)? Should we pontificate on the power of imagery? Maybe repeat the refrain about cameras being even more everywhere? Eh, none of the above probably needs to be said. It's an awesomely strong image. And it reminds that the actions (and operating procedures) of emergency services are powerful. Both for those they serve and those who observe.

A picture is worth a thousand words, so the saying goes. However, it very rarely tells the whole story in those thousand words. With the advent of social media, an outlet has been given for the speculation on what was happening in any given photo and for outrage to ensue because those that weren't there only see what they're shown. Kind of like how the news media only shows us and tells us what they want us to hear and see, vis a vis Rodney King.

Duda ([Email](#)) - 11/18/11 - 10:00

Careful on the generalizations, D. For example, I only post to this blog what interests me to post.

Legeros - 11/18/11 - 18:11

Was it over the top for the LEO's to draw down on these folks? You could make that argument. One could also make the argument that these people, despite their signs and (perhaps) lofty intentions, still broke into a building. LEO's do not know what's going on inside that structure (lofty goals aside) and have to be prepared for anything. To not be prepared could mean lots of bad things could happen. On both sides.

J.A.F.O. - 11/21/11 - 08:33

Sorry, Mike. I don't really consider you "the media", so I can see how that might have come off wrong. Further on J.A.F.O.'s comment: It's easy for someone who doesn't know to Monday-morning quarterback what was done in an incident, and what was shown in a photo. I see a lot of comments on different sites with text like "the dispatcher told the officer..." and "the suspect was found not to have...". What these posters don't seem to get is, it doesn't matter what a responding officer is told, and most of the time what they see on arrival isn't the root of the occurrence. Folks don't get the whole picture when they sit in front of their computer or TV and take in what the media tells them. Just like in the fire and EMS realms, LEOs have to take the information they get, process it, then take what they see when they arrive and add it to the processing. THEN they get to make contact with people on scene and that's when things change. How many times have we been sent to a vehicle fire because a passing motorist saw a car overheating? Ho many times has EMS responded to an unconscious person and found that someone was taking a nap? Then how many times has law enforcement been sent to a noise complaint and found a domestic dispute in progress?

And Mike, I'm not trying to be insulting at all.

Duda ([Email](#)) - 11/24/11 - 14:43

No offense taken, Mike. I am rather calling attention to generalizations, and the perils therein. The "media" delivers a perspective of events, and of varying degrees of objectivity and bias. But that is also true of any type of relating or reporting or information sharing.

Legeros - 11/24/11 - 14:52

Yeah, but I like you, man.

Duda ([Email](#)) - 11/24/11 - 22:48

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'?

Brother Can You Spare a Pumper?

11/18/11 85 W, 2 I - + 6 - 9

That's a Bay Leaf pumper at Western Wake today, where the west-side fire department is two-down on first-out units. Their rescue truck developed engine problems this week, and their other second engine is in Greensboro for transmission work. They're thankful for the assist. What other short- or long-term apparatus loans are remembered around Raleigh and Wake County, either in recent years or back in the day?



Seems like I remember a couple of Garner engines that were used by several departments over the years. At the time, they were reserve in Garner, and they were willing to share.

Chris - 11/18/11 - 19:54

A few years back, DHFD was down 2 or 3 front line pumpers. Bay leaf lent a former Six Forks Mack CF pumper/tanker? It ran second out and Bethesda lent a Supthen pumper which ran first out.

Spot - 11/18/11 - 20:21

I can remember Garner sending engines to Cary at one point, and somebody buying magnets that said Cary FD on them.. only to realize the magnets wouldn't work on the doors!

And Parkwood lent Morrisville their Quint a couple years ago. I remember arriving at a working apartment fire in Morrisville and seeing an aerial up and reading Parkwood on it. Took me a second!

Thanks to the brothers at Bay Leaf for their help! I look forward to getting familiar with this truck on Sunday.

shevais - 11/18/11 - 21:04

Garner has also lent them to Holly Springs or Apex to stand by at Sheron Harris when the fire pumps have been down.

Mike - 11/18/11 - 21:41

This is what the fire service is all about!! I know of NO Wake Co. fire department that will not offer to assist another in a time of need!!

A.C. Rich - 11/18/11 - 22:09

I remember driving Garner E-10 at Fairview for a few weeks

Scooter - 11/18/11 - 23:19

New Hope sent a tanker to Six Forks many years ago. It's all about the brotherhood, but that seems to be forgotten sometimes.

AB - 11/18/11 - 23:24

Years ago when RDU #3 went down for some sort of work, we got Yrac #3 (the lime green machine) for a couple of days and we also had the Six Forks Ford/LaFrance for a few days, as well. That was around 1984 or so...dang I'm old.

DJ - 11/18/11 - 23:43

I borrowed my neighbors lawn mower last week. You could actually ride on it and everything. It was great.

cut grass - 11/19/11 - 00:49

Thanks for that, CG. Keep us updated...

Legeros - 11/19/11 - 10:33

Holly Springs recently barrowed Fairview Engine 2 for a week or so.

079 - 11/20/11 - 12:10

Chapel Hill borrowed carrboros 971(ladder truck) for several months while Tower 73 was OOS.

CHFD - 11/20/11 - 16:13

Bay Leaf loaned Stony Hill a truck on at least two occasions. Anyone think it is a good idea for Wake Co. to have at least one reserve pumper/tanker? There are times when a lot of us are having bad luck and do not have anything to loan. It is good that we support each other to the degree possible.

BE - 11/21/11 - 12:19

Back in '98 DFD Rescue 1 borrowed the Highways rescue truck, which is now in Apex possession.

BullCity - 11/21/11 - 18:28

@BE: if you could get a report on the actual mileage on many of the pumpers in Wake Co. you will see that there are plenty of reserves.

SSideFF - 11/23/11 - 00:25

The Apparatus Committee of the Fire Commission has investigated the use and/or maintenance of a spare pumper and tanker for reserve use. It is still on the burner, but there are no final decisions yet. There are apparatus acquisition options as departments decrease their fleet and/or potential closures occur. Also, MANY THANKS to Bay Leaf VFD for their generosity over the years. Stony Hill only has three pumpers and one tanker (for 2 stations); therefore when one is out of service for an extended time, the relief is very helpful!

A.C. Rich - 11/23/11 - 11:37

Not sure if this counts here, but I recall Raleigh loaning Zebulon an engine plus crew to assist during a tornado...around 1996 I think.

John T. - 11/23/11 - 19:24

John T, you are correct. RFD E-13 was in Zebulon after two tornados came through town. A very much welcomed sight.

Also, lots of credit to the apparatus committee for their work on this. Although each department puts their own unique twists on their trucks, many of the vehicles are fundamentally the same. Sure minimizes the training curve when you're using a neighbor's ride, when either borrowing or on joint responses.

Zeb101 - 11/24/11 - 11:04

Thanks to Bay Leaf for the loaner! We put E191 back in service Tuesday and returned 252 to its house.

Duda ([Email](#)) - 11/24/11 - 14:33

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.

Cary's New Training Chief Vehicle

11/18/11 47 W, 1 I - + 13 - 5

From a reader, here's Cary's new Car 5. There's another one either identical or similar that's replacing an older Dodge pick-me-up truck. The Cary Fire Department's also placed a new Car 1 in service, a Chevy Impala.



Sure would be nice if someone budgeted lights for these things... Just saying...

Lights? - 11/19/11 - 00:51

Perhaps they have not yet installed them or they are sleekly installed. I am sure Cary wouldn't just forget to budget for lights :)

MCK - 11/21/11 - 11:55

The lights were in the budget and have been ordered. Thanks MCK for being realistic and not jumping to conclusions without knowing the facts like some people so often do...just saying...

Budget - 11/21/11 - 15:55

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

How To Take Photos of Fires at Night

11/19/11 852 W, 6 I - + 17 - 7

This posting will be updated multiple times. First, with Mike's thoughts. Second, with Lee's input. Third, with revisions. Four, with more revisions. It's Saturday, so we can do this sort of thing. Check back often!

Sources are [Canterbury Road incident photos](#) by Mike Legeros and Lee Wilson.

How to Take Photos of Fires at Night

That's the magic question, isn't. There's this building on fire at night and the flames are as bright as all get-out. The scene is just glowing with light and should be no problem for photos, right? Then you take a picture and get something like this:



*1/100 Tv, 7.1 Av, 2500 ISO, Spot Meter, P Mode, Canon 50D
No Flash / Mike Legeros photo*

But what you really wanted something like this:



1/13 Tv, 4.0 Av, 2500 ISO, Spot Meter, P Mode, Canon 50D

No Flash / Mike Legeros photo

But wait! The top photo is still useful the flames and photos are better defined. The top is photo is thus more accurate with the depiction of the amount of the fire. The bottom photo can give the impression of more fire than there really was. Why? What's happening?

Exposure. Not the kind related to proximity and what might also start burning beside a burning structure. This type of exposure is the total amount of light that enters the camera to make the picture. The bottom photo is a longer exposure than the top photo. There is more light entering the camera. This is a mixed blessing. The greater light allows the camera to capture more than just the flames. We see the building, the lawn, the firefighters. The greater light also causes the flames to get washed out. They become just a bright blurry spot.¹

¹Does that mean that anyone with any camera can produce these pictures? As long as there's a big, bright fire, as show above? And without any blur? Yes and no. Digital SLR cameras can do this easier than harder. Point-and-shoot digital cameras require more finesse. More later.

(By the way, those better-versed in both the language and technique discussed are welcome to clarify and outright correct! My experience taking pictures is extensive. My experience explaining and understanding what's happening with that process is considerably less-so!)

How do you control the exposure? Well, that gets into camera settings and camera modes. More on that later. But let's talk about light. Mike's personal preference is something that blends the best of worlds. A picture shows more defined and more accurate flames, but also shows the entirety of the scene. Were we shooting during the day, this wouldn't be a problem. That Lucky Old Sun would take care of the additional light. If this particular incident at that particular moment had more scene lighting, the halogen spotlights would absolute augment. But what might a photographer have in their bag of tricks to add light? Why, the flash!

Here are three views from the right-rear of the structure, back behind the house to the right. Mike's over there with the neighbors, who are watching from the line of trees that splits the properties to the rear. These three views show, left to right: no flash (called existing or ambient light), the in-camera (or pop-up) flash on a low output setting, and the in-camera flash on a medium output setting. (Relative term there, more later on that.)



*1/20 Tv, 4.0 Av, 3200 ISO, Spot Meter, P Mode, Canon 50D
No Flash / Mike Legeros photo*



*1/100 Tv, 5.6 Av, 3200 ISO, Spot Meter, P Mode, Canon 50D
Flash, Pop-Up, Exposure Compensation -2 / Mike Legeros photo*



*1/250 Tv, 10 Av, 3200 ISO, Spot Meter, P Mode, Canon 50D
Flash, Pop-Up, Exposure Compensation -2 / Mike Legeros photo*

Look at the flames. Three levels of exposure. Three bears, minus a blonde girl tasting their food. The last photo is getting closer to where we want to be. The flames are very well-defined, and the building and surroundings have light. Some light. Minimal light. Not bad for a pop-up flash, but we can do better. We can use an external flash.

November 20

Here's a photo from Lee Wilson, using an external flash. There's a better definition of the area burning, as well as enough light to see the building and its surrounds. But there's also those pesky reflective stripes, which are glowing. (That's a personal preference of mine, and why my choice where possible is ambient light.)



*1/60 Tv, 5.6Av, 640 ISO, Multi Meter, Nikon D5000
External Flash / Lee Wilson photo*

Most cameras have control over the output of the flash. You can manually adjust the flash exposure compensation, so it produces more or less light with each shot. On an external flash, this can be super-easy control, especially if the control is a dial. You can quickly "dial down" the flash, and see the results after a quick snap. Between reduced flash exposure and enough scene light, and a good balance can be struck. You can minimize the amount of reflective striping glow, for example.

November 27

Tried an external flash and off-camera. [Results in this second posting.](#)

Good examples, and thanks for the image stats. A couple thoughts from a fire buff who has resided in the states on either side of you:

- Thank goodness for digital cameras with image review capabilities! (That said, I can still do a pretty good job at blowing things out.)
- Camera sensors are getting better and better at capturing images that contain lots of darks and lots of brights. Shot some night fire photos last month with my iPhone 4 (after killing two DSLR batteries) and was amazed at how well it did (flash was off). As a PIO, I actually distributed an iPhone 4 pic (5 megapixels) that media ran. I think it was printed in a newspaper.
- My preference is to go as natural as possible. So, I try to use the fire's ambient light as much as I can and avoid flash ... Silhouetted FFs in foreground, etc. Then, as the flames die down, scene lighting picks up for it.
- Low-hanging smoke is one reason I avoid flash. Even the smallest amount of flash on smoke bounces back and renders a photo near useless. I encounter those conditions more often than not.
- All that said, I've shot in the past with a Strobframe (check the Googles for that). Makes a world of difference to get the light source up away from the lens. Reflective material on rigs and turnouts is no longer a problem, and somehow the lighting just has a more natural feel. It's been years since I had a Strobframe as part of a work gig, but it's on my wishlist again. If at all possible, give one a try and let me know how it goes.

jcollins - 11/20/11 - 23:58

Thanks for the tips, JC. That's interesting about the Strobframe. I have never used a bracket, so it would be good to try. Or even just experimenting with my hot shoe cord, and holding my flash above the lens.

Legeros - 11/21/11 - 21:32

Hey, pal! I agree with the use of the Strobframe. I use one and it really is the difference sometimes. Holding the flash up is sort of a love/hate thing, because while you can get some cool effects by being able to custom angle the flash and bounce it, you give up that second hand that helps you get the all important steady, level shot. Here is where a monopod could help, but there again...limitations. As always, it has more to do with what you are going for. I do alot of bracketing because I like both light and dark shots. Sometimes the flame is a cooler shot than the

action (or lack of) taking place at the moment.

Lloyd J. ([Email](#)) - 11/22/11 - 21:37

Lloyd, thanks for the input. I was at Southeastern yesterday, picking up a repaired body (40D) and eying a couple brackets they had on hand. That could be interesting, toting my two cameras on scene (50D, 40D) and if one of them was inside a Stroboframe. Guess I need to test the flash improvement first and foremost.

This posting still needs a few more musings as well. I haven't (yet) talked about metering, for example. So there's still some stuff to add to the top of the post. Maybe on Turkey Day.

Legeros - 11/23/11 - 08:30

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.

Big John

11/19/11 127 W, 1 I - + 8 - 6

Big bad John. Sung by Jimmy Dean and composed by Dean and Roy Acuff. Released in September 1961, and became a number one record. Also won a grammy. Regarding sausage, Mr. Dean started that company with his brother Don in 1969. It was bought by Consolidated Foods in 1984, but he remained involved. He was the spokesman for Jimmy Dean Sausage until the early 2000s. Regarding James Bond movies, Mr. Dean played reclusive Las Vegas-living billionaire Willard Whyte. His classic quote that helps the plot turn: "Baja? I haven't got anything in Baja!" Regarding the giant toilet pictured below, that was photographed by Mrs. Blogger this morning at Raleigh's annual pre-Thanksgiving Christmas parade. [There were fire trucks there, too!](#)



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'?

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

Placeholder - November 21, 2011

11/21/11 84 W, 1 I - + 11 - 4

The muse eludes me. So with nothing notable to say on a Monday morning, here instead is a picture from a few yars ago, two alarms on Calumet Drive on June 11, 2004. Night photo, so let's plug our [ongoing posting on that subject](#). Was a dark *and* stormy night at that fire, with lightning in the distance. Rain and wind blew through not long after the Hawaiian shirt-wearing photographer left the scene, as memory serves.



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](#))

By Sea, By Air, By Land

11/22/11 51 W - + 10 - 4

Random YouTube videos for Tuesday morning enjoyment. Wilmington's fire boat Atlantic VI departs dock in March 2011, Charlotte firefighter go airborne on NC HART missing person mission in June 2009, Rocky Mount Squad 2 leaves the station for a medical call in July 2011. Very short clips each.

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.

Waiting for the Big One in Charlotte

11/22/11 244 W, 1 I - + 9 - 8

From the [Carolinas Fire Page mailing list](#) comes one of the best articles we've read in a while. *Charlotte Magazine* has [published this story](#) in their December issue. It's written by Jeremy Markovich and has photographs by Nancy Pierce. They chronicle twenty-four hours with Engine 15, e.g the Shamrock Express, and the city's busiest.

From 8 p.m. to 8 p.m., it's a day and a night in the life of an urban fire company in the Carolinas. Evening visit to the shop. Baseball on television. Late-night ice cream. Shift change. Grocery run. And medical calls at all hours. But no "big ones."

Notes the story: "That's normal. Firefighters in Charlotte don't spend much time fighting fires. From July 2009 through July 2010, CFD responded to 93,139 incidents. Only one in every forty-five calls is for something that might be burning. Credit the strict fire codes, the sprinklers, and regulations that go so far as to ban specific sorts of shingles."

But they're ready and willing and even eager to fight fire. This might be the best quote in the thing: "Fires destroy. They burn. They kill. But firefighters want to fight fires. They train to fight big fires. They want to use that training. But using that training puts them in danger. This is The Paradox." Indeed it is! [Read and enjoy the story.](#)



Nancy Pierce/Charlotte Magazine 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'?

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

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.

Morning Reading - November 23, 2011

11/23/11 302 W - + 6 - 10

Good morning Raleigh. Tomorrow is a holiday. Then the big holiday happens in another month. Between and after the two are big meals, big parties, gifts galore, and good will and good cheer all around. Unless you're reading this blog, and feeling a little argumentative. Pick a topic, any topic, and some will enjoy arguing particular aspects. Such as, say, warning lights on a pick-up truck. Maybe conflict is a favorite spice of conversation around here...

- [Jonesville candidates agree on fire department merger](#) - From the *Elkin Tribune*, referencing either a proposed or planned merger of the Jonesville and Arlington fire departments in Yadkin County. Still trying to find more details on that one.
- [Mt. Airy Firefighters Cited in Lifesaving Efforts](#) - FireNews story from the *Mt. Airy News*, about seven firefighters awarded for lifesaving efforts as part of an expanded first responder program. The latter was launched about a year ago, and was met with criticism regarding the estimated cost.
- [Dispatcher discovers house on fire during 911 call](#) - From WRAL from last week, about a Durham telecommunicator working when her home was report on fire. The naked city is certainly full of such stories, where dispatchers learn of those they know (or themselves) through the course of their duties.
- [Best home backup solution?](#) - Ask Engadget feature on the subject of home computer backup solutions. We've got two terabytes of data over here at Blog Central and need a better system for protecting that data. Plus the computers image, meaning all the program installed on same. We'll get there one of these days.
- [How to take photos of fires at night](#) - We're still working on this one. Read the comments. Watch for further updates to the post itself.

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

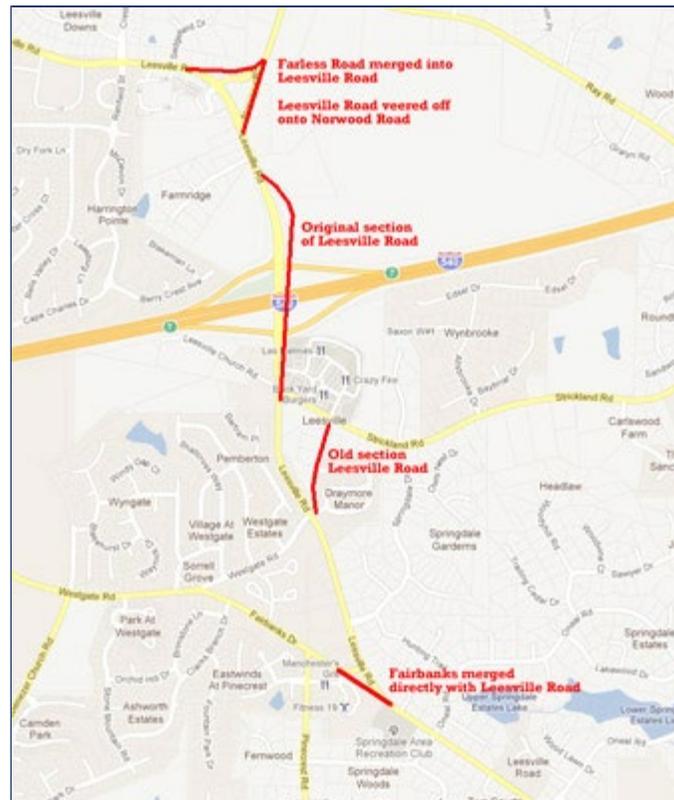
What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?

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

Old Sections of Leesville Road

11/24/11 119 W, 1 I - + 12 - 6

[Last night's house fire](#) at 10700 Leesville Road-- Durham Highway, Raleigh, Falls, Bay Leaf, and Bethesda fire departments-- included an interesting water point, a hydrant located in the front yard of the 7,000+ square-foot structure. How'd that hydrant get there? Most likely, it's a leftover from when that section of Leesville Road was located east of its present location. Below is an annotated Google Maps, with information drawn from historic aerial photos available on the [Wake County IMAPS site](#). When Interstate 540 was built, Leesville Road was straightened. The 10000 block was relocated a number of yards west. What other changes to both the roadway and the community do readers recall? Click once or twice to enlarge:



December 7th there is a community forum about the future of Leesville Rd. By Spring of 2014 – 4 lanes from I-540 until it meets Harrington Grove.

A.S. Meier - 11/24/11 - 19:45

Have looked at the history of Leesville Rd. before on the web. It's claim parts of Leadmine Rd. and Town & Country (<http://www.wakecountyoroads.com/nwc/leesv..>) I spent a few years commuting to Morrisville pre-540, knowing the various routes using Leesville were important especially if there was bad accident (Lumley to Westgate to LV; ACC blvd. to Shady Grove Rd. to LV; Page to 70 to LV)

Phil ([Email](#)) - 11/25/11 - 00:49

Thanks Phil! That makes me think of a 1950 Sanborn Map except showing old Station 6, <http://raleighfirehistory.org/photos/san..>

Oberlin Road past Fairview Road was named Leesville!

Legeros - 11/25/11 - 07:36

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.

Raleigh Fire Department Centennial Coins For Sale

11/28/11 126 W, 1 I - + 14 - 5

Looking for a good holiday gift on ~~Black Friday~~ Cyber Monday? How about a Raleigh Fire Department Centennial Challenge Coin? These full-color coins cost \$10 each, including sales tax. They're 1.5 inches in diameter, and a good size for carrying in pockets or wallets. The coins are available for purchase online at www.raleighfirehistory.org. They're being sold by the [Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society](#). Next year is the 100th anniversary of the Raleigh Fire Department. Various activities and celebrations are being planned, including a parade and muster downtown on June 9, 2012. These coins are the first fundraiser for the centennial activities. Good coins and a good purchase. Buy a couple and give as gifts. They're pretty cool. Click to enlarge:



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.

Restaurant Damaged in Downtown Youngsville

11/25/11 116 W, 1 I - + 12 - 9

That's Wake Forest Ladder 1 operating at 120 Main Street in downtown Youngsville last night. They were special-called for a structure fire at a two-story commercial structure. Here's a [brief news story](#) on same. Fire started in an upstairs apartment, and spread to a restaurant on the first floor. Franklinton and Brassfield fire departments also responded, along with Wake Forest Ladder 1, Engine 1, and Car 2. The 1912 building burned last year, as [this North Raleigh News story](#) notes. The fire on September 26, 2010, started in the restaurant. Yours Truly wandered that way last night, and enjoyed the post-meal drive. Overhaul was underway by then. [See those photos](#).



Is that a rain roof that was built on top of the previous flat roof? Was WFFD L1 able to cut through both roofs?

Mike - 11/25/11 - 10:29

Recalling the radio traffic, it sounds like the building had a second roof atop the first. I recall they talked about having some success cutting through both layers.

Legeros - 11/25/11 - 10:32

Thanks Mike

Mike - 11/25/11 - 10:54

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

UPDATE: Hot Springs Firefighter Dies After Search

11/25/11 205 W - + 11 - 2

Captain Johnny Norton of the Hot Springs Fire Department in Madison County died on Thursday, November 24. He was 56 years old and an active member of the department for the last 37 years. He also worked as a crew member for the North Carolina Forest Service for many years. Captain Norton had responded to a search on the Appalachian Trail in the Hot Springs area on November 21, where he assisted in locating a missing hiker. He experienced chest pains at his residence the next day, and was transported Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville. He passed away two days later

Funeral Arrangements

- Visitation on Saturday, November 26, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at Blue Ridge Funeral Home, [7626 NC Highway 213, Mars Hill, NC.](#)
- Memorial service on Sunday, November 27, at 2:00 p.m., at Solid Rock Full Gospel Church, [4154 US Highway 25-70, Hot Springs, NC.](#)
- Graveside service: Fairview Cemetery, 202 Fairview Loop Road, Hot Springs, NC.

Notes

- Emergency apparatus and personnel are requested to arrive at Solid Rock Church at 1:00 p.m., if attending. Parking for apparatus will be identified.
- For more information, contact Jeff Willis, Madison County Emergency Management Coordinator at 828-649-9608, jwillis@madisoncountync.org.

Sources: [FireNews.net](#), North Carolina State Firemen's Association.

WLOS video story about Sunday's funeral. Some 500 people attended. [http://www.wlos.com/shared/newsroom/top ..](http://www.wlos.com/shared/newsroom/top..)

Here's his obituary: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizen..>

Survived by wife and two sons, one of whom is the Hot Springs Fire Chief. Rest in peace.

Legeros - 11/28/11 - 20:34

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.

Raleigh City Museum Programs on Fire, Weather Disasters, Saturday, Dec. 3

11/25/11 258 W - + 7 - 11

Press release. On Saturday, December 3, visit the Raleigh City Museum from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and learn about the Disasters in Raleigh. Two programs will be conducted on fire and weather disasters in the Capitol City. A Raleigh Fire Department fire engine will also be present to see up-close.

Beginning at 1:30 p.m., the museum will have active and retired members of the Raleigh Fire Department speaking about their experiences fighting some of the city's biggest fires. At 2:00 p.m., fire department historian Mike Legeros will talk about the history of disastrous fires in Raleigh.

At 3:00 p.m., Nate Johnson, WRAL meteorologist, will speak on the weather disasters of Raleigh and his experiences studying and tracking them. This program is free and informational for both adults and children.

The Raleigh City Museum is located in the Historic Briggs Building at 220 Fayetteville Street. The museum is open Tuesday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and on Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission to the museum and its programs is free.

Come explore their newest exhibits *Nature Unleashed: Disasters in Raleigh* and *The [R]evolution of Media: The history of newspaper, radio, and television in Raleigh*. Permanent exhibits include *It Started With One Thousand Acres: Raleigh and its People*, *Raleigh's City Flag: 100 Years*, and *Let Us March On: Raleigh's Journey Towards Civil Rights*.

For more information call Stormi Souter at (919) 832-3775 ext. 23 or visit their website at <http://www.raleighcitymuseum.org>.

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.

Vintage Photo of Lexington Fire Department

11/25/11 90 W, 1 I - + 9 - 2

Found on eBay, here's the Lexington Fire Department circa 1916 to 1920. That's the seller description, that is. Better timeframe is probably 1923 to 1929, which are the dates of Sanborn Maps in my files. The town had one American LaFrance pumper in 1923, and two in 1929. (They also suffered three line of duty deaths in 1926, when their two engines collided. [Read that story.](#)) Neat photo. And if it looks a little funny in the center, that's because there was a watermark that we've removed. Click to enlarge:



It would seem then, that one of these pumpers is currently at the NC Transportation Museum in Spencer, NC. Long ago (approx 1969), the Fire Science students at Rowan Tech (now Rowan Cabarrus Community College) purchased the 1922 ALF pumper and restored it. In 1980, RCCC gave the pumper to the NC Transportation Museum. Lexington FD relettered it with LEXINGTON. Havent seen it recently but I hear its still there.

B Parnell - 11/30/11 - 08:08

Thanks, Chief! It's been a while since I have been to the museum, but I recall they had at least one fire vehicle. (Chief's car, maybe?)

I need to reach out and get a copy of all ALF deliveries in North Carolina, during the early 20th Century. They were exceptionally popular around here.

Legeros - 11/30/11 - 08:13

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

Morning Mayhem - November 26, 2011

11/26/11 228 W - + 10 - 9

Looks like just a handful of incidents of retail mayhem on Black Friday, both locally and around the state. In the Triangle, it was a largely quiet day for shoppers as [this News & Observer story](#) reports. My mid-morning wallet-opening-- just a couple stores-- was mild. (There are deals online a-plenty, however, and in particular at [DiecastModels.co](#). Good/great discounts on fire apparatus models by TWH.) Other happenings in town included three (more) hotel and motel robberies in Raleigh ([N&O story](#)), and an early evening house fire in Raleigh ([Legeros photos](#)). And everyone ate leftovers and napped.

- Raleigh/Crabtree Valley Mall - Some twenty people including members of local "occupy" movement staged a protest in the food court. Six arrested. One smiled in mug shot. Sources: [N&O](#), [NBC17](#), [WRAL](#).
- Fayetteville/Cross Creek Mall - Shots fired outdoors, near food court. One man ran inside mall, and a second pursued, firing more shots near Macy's. Chaos ensued. No arrests (yet). Source: [WRAL](#), [WTVD](#).
- Kinston/Wal-Mart - Man waiting for discounted cell phones fell into a display. Customers became restless and began fighting. Store security used pepper spray. One arrest. Source: [WITN](#), [WRAL](#), [WTVD](#).
- Greenville/Walmart - Mob scene, at least as [described in this WITN story](#) and with video clip. No injuries or arrests reported.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

Today's House Fire in Southern Wake County

11/26/11 70 W, 2 I - + 15 - 8

Arthur Pierce Road off Holly Springs Road. Fairview, Cary, Apex, Holly Springs, Swift Creek, and Western Wake fire departments. Wake County and Apex EMS. Give me a few hours or overnight to post pictures, and sort out exactly which units were there, who else was covering, and other sundry details. Three news crews on scene, so watch your television. Click to enlarge:



Two anonymous readers have posed tactical questions about this fire, but I have deleted them. They didn't get posted, because comment moderation is enabled. Both are welcome to mail me for more details, notably on my low tolerance of late for anonymous quarterbacking.

This story has been submitted to both FireNews.net and firehouse.com. If/when they are posted, readers can pose their tactical questions there. Particularly nifty is the Facebook interface on FireNews.net, and which is probably keeping everyone a little more honest.

But on this blog, tactical questions and discussions by anonymous readers has proven problematic.

What's then the best way to ask about tactics at a local fire? You can swing by a station and talk to the crews. You can pose questions to the incident commander(s) directly; pick up the phone, or drop an e-mail. They'd probably be happy to talk. (Heck, if I had more time and bandwidth, I could invite incident commanders to share lessons learned. If they were inclined, that is.)

Overall, it'd be great if we could share experiences and build learning out of these posted photos and this blog-based forum. But anonymous participation still raises too many hackles. And even when we're being pretty civil, there are still virtual fingers pointing at someone.

We'll get a better interface and comment registration system one of these days. For now, thanks for reading.

Legeros - 11/28/11 - 22:37

Once again, it is a sordid thing – quarterbacking that is. One must understand that there are multiple decisions to be made by a first arriving and subsequent command officer; and when in that “heat of battle,” most of the decisions are 100% recognition primed in nature. In many situations, the decisions are adequate for the immediate need at hand but may not ultimately satisfy others who are “looking in.” In my opinion, it is an individual’s interpretation coupled with their own experience and knowledge that is the basis for critical perception – or in some cases, understanding. Maybe it is a weird form of skewed self-satisfaction achieved by an individual when they are derogatory or condescending. Regardless, decision making on an emergency scene is a fascinating and educational area for all to research.

A.C. Rich - 11/29/11 - 00:07

Thanks for the perspective, AC. There is lately a LOT of quarterbacking that happens on Statter’s site (<http://www.statter911.com>). So much, in fact, it might be the premiere site for same. Very interesting and entirely enjoyable to read, in my opinion. (If I didn’t have personal connections to city and county firefighters here, as well as all that comes with operating this blog, I would probably have the same reaction here.)

There’s probably a great essay to be written— or even conference presentation to be made— on quarterbacking, and what it means or shows. Stepping back and reading several weeks or months of comments. Assessing the themes and trends. It probably mirrors what happens daily in day rooms. But is also driven by those who are online, and willing to comment and express themselves online. Though, these days— with Facebook and other social media channels— expressing yourself online is becoming pretty normal. (How comfortable are quarterbacks with using their real and identifiable names ? That one’s probably still a harder sell...)

Legeros - 11/29/11 - 08:08

Mike, Garner Eng 3 backfilled Fairview Sta 1 and I believe that Fuquay Eng ? backfilled Holly Springs I think

Mike - 11/29/11 - 10:42

Maybe with the deleted (or never posted) comments, the moderator could post a PC version of the question for open response. Quarterbacking is, as A.C. said, a sordid thing. It can however be a medium for which readers can learn different perspectives and/or approaches. Granted, it is not possible, even with photographs and nauseum, to get a full perspective of what the first due and leadership saw on a scene, discussing what is seen or known can be a positive thing. I often see things from photos/blog postings (from Wake EMS responses as well as others) that I can take back to my desk to improve what it is that we do.

Olson - 11/29/11 - 14:10

Thanks for the suggestion, Jon. Maybe rewritten (by me) or resubmitted (by readers) comments are one direction. While I ponder that, let me ask this: are there legal liabilities from tactical details discussed in public post-incident? I have long-wondered this. Can anything happen if a representative of a given fire department makes statements to the effect “we could have done better?” in the eyes of the person or parties whose property was destroyed?

Legeros - 11/29/11 - 20:47

Question: how many tankers shuttled water at this fire? Looking at my photos and consulting my memories— during my time there— it looks like four: FFD Tanker 2, FFD Tanker 6, SCFD Tanker __, and AFD Tanker 1. (Need to correct my incident description, as FFD T2 was omitted.)

Legeros - 11/29/11 - 21:11

Mike, I was not there but being familiar with the departments I would offer: Fairview does not have a Ta2 and the Swift Creek Tanker in your photos is Ta2.

Tanker - 11/29/11 - 22:47

Thanks for the clarification. Even the observant observer makes mistakes, as I have just demonstrated. Imagine the conclusions drawn as you get once, twice, thrice-removed!

Legeros - 11/29/11 - 22:56

Regarding concerns over comments posted by department officials and potential negative effects, there is always the possibility of those having ramifications. In today's litigious society anything can happen as far as being sued. While NC General Statutes provide some level of protection, the potential PR issues of the citizen and the media picking up on such things could be very damaging.

D.Cates - 11/30/11 - 14:11

Thanks David. That sounds like a great question, maybe for the Fire Law Blog web site. With everyone and their brother using social media, what could happen if a property owner reads a firefighter's comment along those lines. Although, that's the fear factor talking. Maybe an even better question is: has that happened to date, around the country?

Legeros - 12/01/11 - 08:02

The cases of which I am most familiar with (so far) have involved the release of photos/information of patients and victims, or internal discipline for comments made in online forums. That doesn't mean that there has not been or will not be such litigation. I believe it is only a matter of time. Conversations that used to be confined to the tailboard are now shared worldwide with no recall button. Even when comments which are posted in haste are deleted in the clearer light of day, someone may have already copied and pasted them, so the chain goes on invisibly until it surfaces again. There's a fine line between healthy discourse and outright pot stirring, and an equally difficult balance between freedom of speech and libel.

Furey - 12/03/11 - 04:57

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.

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.

Night Photography and Off-Camera Flash

11/27/11 258 W, 3 I - + 12 - 10

In our recent and still unfinished posting on [How to Take Fire Photos at Night](#), a flash bracket was mentioned as a solution for reducing the glow from reflective surfaces. Such as a [Stroboframe](#). To test that theory, an external and off-camera flash was tried at last night's [house fire on Ujamma Drive](#). My Canon 50D was in one hand, and my Canon Speedlite 580EX was in the other. Sync cord connected the two. Below are examples of the results, which aren't bad for a first attempt.

Top shot combines (a.) low ambient light with (b.) lots of reflective striping. Alas, the striping on each person's gear is still glowing pretty strong. Middle shot combines (a.) good ambient light with (b.) some reflective striping. The striping isn't quite as pronounced, and almost blends into the scene. The bottom photo combines (a.) good ambient light with (b.) no reflective striping or surfaces. That one's the best of the lot, and really demonstrates the benefit of an external flash.

The settings used for these shots? Program (P) mode, evaluative metering, and ISO 2500 or ISO 3200. Plus flash exposure compensation, but which didn't record in the EXIF settings for some reason. Lots of flash exposure adjustments during the shooting. Dialing up, dialing down. Trying to get the blend just right. We'll try this again another night, and probably pick up a flash bracket along the way. Looks to work reasonably well.



1/60 TV, 4.0 Av, 2500 ISO, Evaluative Metering



1/60 Tv, 4.0 Av, 3200 ISO, Evaluative Metering



1/60 Tv, 4.0 Av, 3200 ISO, Evaluative Metering

Forgot to include the position of my hand-held external flash in these shots, which was parallel to the lens, to the left of the camera, about six inches away. No diffuser used, no deflection. Occasionally turned slightly away from the subject, unintentionally.

Legeros - 11/28/11 - 08:24

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

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

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

Old Roxobel Engine

11/28/11 48 W, 1 I - + 4 - 11

Photographer Lee Wilson found the Roxobel Fire Department's old Engine 5 off Highway 48 in Halifax County. The Ford/American LaFrance pumper originally served in Northampton County, where RFD is located on Highway 308. [See more photos](#) from Lee's long weekend at Lake Gaston.



Lee Wilson photo

FWIW, Roxobel is actually in western Bertie County, near the Northampton line. DLH

DLH ([Email](#)) - 12/03/11 - 12:09

Thanks for the clarification, DLH!

Legeros - 12/04/11 - 08:58

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

Remember personal info?
 Yes
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

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

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.

Black Mountain Firefighters Struck at Accident Scene

11/29/11 125 W - + 6 - 8

The Asheville *Citizen-Times* this morning has details on last night's responder accident in Black Mountain. Two firefighters and a police cruiser with an officer inside were struck at an accident scene on Interstate 40. The incident began as a single-vehicle accident in the westbound lanes shortly after 5:00 p.m. The traffic was heavy, the rain was heavy, and the roadway consisted of a slight curve going downhill. A few minutes after the first crash, the second vehicle hydroplaned into the police cruiser, which was pushed into the firefighters tending to the first driver. The firefighters and police officer were transported with minor injuries to Mission Hospital about 5:30 p.m. [Read the *Citizen-Times* story.](#) See also this [WLOS video report](#).

Truck placement and positioning is so important when on the highway. Never be afraid to take the extra lane or call for additional trucks to respond for the sole purpose of blocking for you. Put as much between traffic and your incident as you can. The boys and girls from Cary, Morrisville, Raleigh and Western Wake along I-40 are doing a great job of this with up to 3 engines a ladder and rescue responding to most every call type out there, it may sound crazy but you can always replace a truck, you cant replace a person.

blocking - 11/29/11 - 20:36

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.

Combat-Ready Firefighting?

11/30/11 223 W, 1 I - + 9 - 11

Came across this yesterday, a [Fire Engineering Blog Network](#) posting titled *What is a "combat-ready" engine company?* Firefighter Nick Martin (DCFD) answers the question, which was posed by one of his readers. For those who ride an engine, he writes, what is combat ready? His take is that every alarm should be treated as the "fire of your career" until proven otherwise.

So he stresses such points as (1.) come off the truck dressed and wearing gloves, (2.) don't don your mask until at the entrance to the fire (and do it quickly), (3.) establish a water supply every time, and (4.) if making an interior attack, make it an aggressive interior attack. He has a couple more points. [Read the posting](#), discuss as desired. Good, meaty topic there!

Next question, what is combat-ready *fire photography* look like? Same thing. Treat every shoot like it's the big one. Your gear is always ready, from keeping your batteries charged (both in-camera and in-bag) to putting the memory cards back in your camera after you're done downloading. It means gearing-up on arrival, such as loading your pockets (or vest) with your goodies. Since you'll be parked farther from the scene, walking back the car to reload or grab your flash will surely mean missed shots. And even if your name isn't Shirley.



I also saw this article the other day. I believe that there are a lot of departments that could take a lot from reading this and putting some of these practices into play. We are in the business of saving lives and property, not standing outside waiting for the water to flow from the hydrant and actually making entry on structures. Nick Martin has other very good articles and contributes to Traditions Training, it is definitely worth taking the time to read the blog there.

726 - 11/30/11 - 20:30

Yes, Nick is an awesome instructor and fireman, but read closely, he is an advocate of bringing your own water in. I know, I've seen him in action. Departments "up there" actually establish more than one water supply on working fires, how nuts is that!?!?!? 

Catching hydrants on working fires will always be a crutch unless you train on it, and train on it again.

In this area, fighting fires off of tank water is in the minority compared to the rest of the industry.

Water - 11/30/11 - 21:45

"Up there" they also do things a lot differently with water supply. First in engine does drop the line at the hydrant but they do not actually catch it themselves. The SECOND engine catches it whilst the first engine is either getting ready or is already inside.

726 - 12/01/11 - 00:38

Very true. The option to lay in dry WAS there, but NOBODY did it. Another fine example of us being our own worst enemies.

Layin'InWet - 12/01/11 - 18:41

Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Yes

No

/ [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.

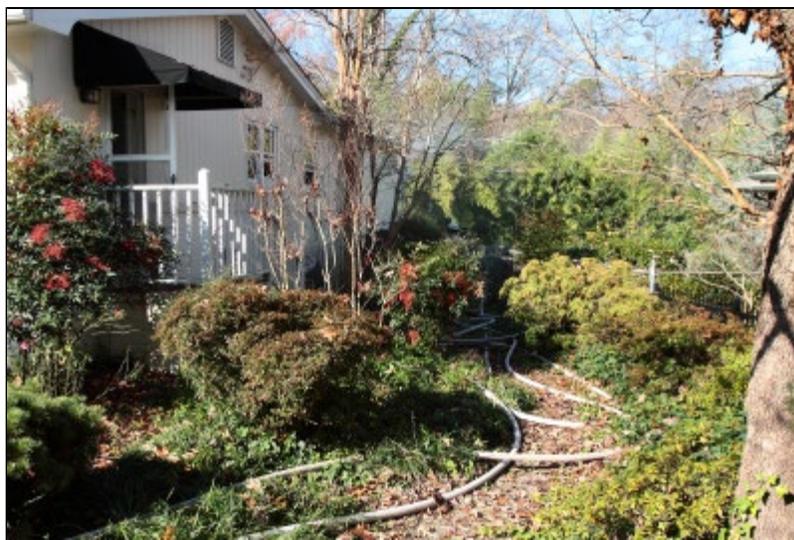
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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.

Double Coverage in Cameron Village

11/30/11 89 W, 2 I - + 13 - 7

Both of your favorite fire photographers were on scene at yesterday morning at a basement fire at a house on Graham Street, off Daniels Street, which is in Cameron Village. Engine 5 found fire in the basement of a one-story occupied dwelling. Engine 6 brought the water. Controlled in about a half-hour, but with extensive overhaul. See their photos ([Lee Wilson](#) and [Mike Legeros](#)) for a full incident description. [Lee's Flickr site appears temporarily unavailable. Don't be, um, alarmed.]



Mike Legeros photo



Lee Wilson 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'?

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

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 / Crack!

11/30/11 83 W, 1 I - + 12 - 9

'Twas the protective filter that took the beating, when my camera came in contact with a piece of exercise equipment at a fire station this morning. Might've been avoided outright, had my lens hood been mounted. That went missing yesterday, maybe at the house fire on Graham Street. Replacements for both have been ordered. The new UV filter is coming from Korea, via far-cheaper eBay prices. We'll see how that works out.



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.

Clayton EMS 44 - Then & Now

12/01/11 116 W, 3 I - + 6 - 3

Reader Jason Thompson has found Clayton's second EMS 44, a 1977 Chevrolet ambulance that was the first Type III in our region. The original was a 1965 Ford SD-Type. Scooby-Doo Type. And that's when they were called [Clayton Rescue](#). Until that time, he recounts, Type I Swabs (original Wake County EMS units and many other local squads), Type II (one-piece vans), and high-top suburbans dominated EMS agencies around here. Plus, of course, all those Cadillacs and old Oldsmobiles and Pontiacs that were still around. This one's serving as a plumber's vehicle. Pretty cool. Thanks Jason!





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.

Hillsborough's New Ladder Truck

12/02/11 186 W, 1 I - + 10 - 8

December 3 update: See also this [subsequent posting about HFD history](#).

The town of Hillsborough has taken delivery of a new ladder truck, a 95-foot aerial platform built by Sutphen. Ladder 2 will be operated by [Orange Rural Fire Department](#), which is contracted by the town for fire protection in the town. Curiously, the new truck is lettered for the Hillsborough Fire Department.¹

The new apparatus replaces a 1987 Simon-Duplex/LTI quint. [This town news release](#) includes details on the funding for the truck. [FireNews.net](#) also has details on the delivery, from a *News of Orange County* story.

We see quite a few Sutphens in the central Piedmont, such as operated by Durham, Greensboro and Winston-Salem. As for the Hillsborough Fire Department and its history, [we've tried to track that but without much success](#). Maybe a visit to the local library is in order one of these days. Click to enlarge:



Town of Hillsborough photo

¹Reminds me of Avery County's short Sutphen platform, which was bought by and lettered for the county but operated by the individual fire departments. If memory serves correctly.

Nice looking rig. I worked for WSFD and rode three of our Sutphen ladders. They are great apparatus with great reputation. I know that Durham is a loyal Sutphen customer as well as Greensboro. Also the Sutphen dealer Stevens Fire Equipment are great to work with.

Clay Simmons ([Email](#)) - 12/02/11 - 11:56

So what's the Hillsborough Fire Department? I checked the Town's website- they only have a fire marshal- no department listed... Is this a sign of things to come?

Bob P. - 12/02/11 - 21:21

Carrboro has a similar ladder. Very nice piece. Sutphen seems to make very well thought of equipment, would like to see them in the capital county

shevais - 12/02/11 - 22:48

Bob, the Hillsborough Fire Department was a prior entity that protected the town until perhaps the 1990s. Maybe it still exists on paper, as a

named but not necessarily funded town department. It's not present in the latest town budget: <http://www.ci.hillsborough.nc.us/sites/d..>

Legeros - 12/02/11 - 23:40

I believe that the Hillsborough Fire Dept is actually known as Orange Rural. <http://www.orfd.org/departement-informati..>

Marcus - 12/03/11 - 08:18

Thanks Marcus. As the above earlier blog link notes, <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..>, I get the impression that ORFD was organized as an entity separate from HFD. Looking at their original articles of incorporation on the Secretary of State's web site, they were called Orange Rural Fire Department No. 1. Wonder what the "No. 1" signified?

Anyway, so for decades there was a Hillsboro FD, later named Hillsborough FD. A volunteer department, and with equipment that the town probably paid for. Then something happened in 1968, at least as an issue of the Hose & Nozzle mentions. Leading citizens proposed creating a VFD to replace the present system. The new department would extend coverage several miles from town. That was ORFD.

As for the specifics of how long HFD operated, and the finer details therein, that's a mystery. HFD appears in the NCSFA's annual list of member departments through at least 1995. ORFD hired their first paid firefighters in 1996. So maybe HFD operated as late as the mid 1990s? And then ORFD took over completed contracted protection of the municipal fire district?

Certainly a compelling question, and probably easy to uncover with a little leg, or local inquiries or research.

Legeros - 12/03/11 - 08:45

Mike, I wonder if the City of Hillsborough maybe funded this truck for ORFD to use and felt since they bought it their name should be on it. I recently read where a town (I think in Florida) is suing the fire department they contracted with for fire protection, because the city did not renew the contract but the department has not returned the equipment including several trucks that the town had purchased. seems if the equipment purchased by the town had the towns name on it getting their trucks back would be easier. In fact up here Carroll County letters any trucks they fund as CARROLL COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT regardless of what Department is using the trucks, or which department they are housed at, and the Hillsville Fire Department has about 8 or9 trucks labeled Carroll County in their 3 stations, also have one engine and a new ladder coming that are lettered Hillsville Fire Department because the town is buying them. I can see the rational, especially with most towns and counties having tight budgets these days, they want the citizens to see their tax dollars at work.

Galax,Va - 04/20/12 - 22:29

The Town of Hillsborough contracts ORFD for fire protection. Hillsborough chipped in on the truck, thus it gets its name on the side.

Bob - 07/19/12 - 17:32

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.

Top This Trailer Hitch

12/02/11 73 W, 1 I - + 7 - 3

Here's the ultimate automotive accessory for firefighters, past or present. This one comes from DJ, one of our longtime readers and a blogger himself. His license plate echoes his site name, [9-ECHO-1](#). And his background in firefighting stretches back decades, such as when he worked at Raleigh-Durham Airport and volunteered at Yrac Fire Department. Looks like the perfect holiday gift to me.



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.

MOVED - Hillsborough FD / Orange Rural FD - Apparatus, Patch, History

12/20/15 26 W - + 26 - 18

The content of this posting has been moved to <http://legeros.com/history/hillsborough>

Mike is truck 268 the truck parked at Creedmore now????

TRN ([Email](#)) - 12/06/11 - 22:24

TRN, it appears so. Here's that pic, <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..>

Legeros - 12/06/11 - 22:26

Mike if you find yourself in the area ORFD has some very nice equipment. They have in addition to the new tower, 2 KME first out pumpers (one owned by the town one by the rural dept), a heavy rescue, and twin 2000gal tanker, a international 2 door pumper and they still have the white volvo large tanker and they kept the aerial they had as a reserve.

OCFF - 12/07/11 - 20:18

Lee Wilson has posted these and a couple other HFD and ORFD apparatus photos here, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/leewilson/s..>

Legeros - 12/10/11 - 17:12

Mike I do not remember a time that ORFD protected the entire County. Especially Chapel Hill and Carrboro. Can you check these facts.

OCNC - 12/21/15 - 10:18

OCNC, my presumption is that this

1971 – ORFD starts project to provide fire protection for entire county. That project lasts for several years.

Translates to this

1971 – ORFD starts project to provide [rural] fire protection for entire county. That project lasts for several years.

I will correct my original posting.

Legeros - 12/21/15 - 10:20

I'm the current Chief of Hillsborough/Orange Rural Fire. From the old guys, HFD covered the entire county in the 40-50-60's. In the 60's, some of the HFD founders started pushing other communities around the county to start their own fire departments. To get things going they would organize community meetings and help with the paperwork needed to incorporate the departments. Prior to this push to create new fire departments; Hillsborough, Carrboro and Chapel Hill were the only fire departments. As I understand it, at some point in time, Chapel Hill was only protecting the university so Hillsborough and Carrboro were responding into areas that are now part of Chapel Hill's city limits. I think the reference in the 70's to HFD covering the entire county is possibly a misunderstanding of mutual aid as most other Orange County Departments started up between the mid 60's and mid 70's.

Hope this helps.

Jeff Cabe ([Web Site](#)) - 12/24/15 - 09:09

Thanks Chief. That's helpful information and makes a lot more sense, given the context of the times. Will update this posting again, as I have been doing every day or two, as new information is found.

Legeros - 12/24/15 - 09:19

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.

REMINDER: Raleigh City Museum Programs Today, Saturday, Dec. 3

12/03/11 171 W - + 4 - 3

Visit the Raleigh City Museum this afternoon from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and learn about the disasters in Raleigh. Two programs will be conducted on fire and weather disasters in the Capitol City. An engine company will also be present, with their apparatus available for viewing.

Beginning at 1:30 p.m., active and retired members of the Raleigh Fire Department will speak about fighting some of the city's biggest fires. At 2:00 p.m., historian Mike Legeros will talk about the history of disastrous fires in Raleigh.

At 3:00 p.m., Nate Johnson, WRAL meteorologist, will speak on the weather disasters of Raleigh and his experiences studying and tracking them. This program is free and informational for both adults and children.

The Raleigh City Museum is located in the Historic Briggs Building at 220 Fayetteville Street. The museum is open Tuesday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and on Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission to the museum and its programs is free.

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.

Morning Reading - December 3, 2011

12/03/11 249 W - + 4 - 3

Good morning Raleigh. Getting ready for a presentation early this afternoon. [Disasters of Raleigh](#) at the City Museum in the historic Briggs Building on Fayetteville Street. Subject is fire, of course. Great fires of Raleigh, plus ample historical context therein. Then we open the [Raleigh Fire Museum](#) next Saturday. History never sleeps.

- [Wake takes control of fire \[department's\] board, finances](#) - *News & Observer* story, that originated earlier this week in the *Eastern Wake News*. Wake County has resolved some administrative issues with Eastern Wake Fire & Rescue. See the most recent Fire Commission minutes (referenced [in this posting](#), and contained in [these documents](#)) for some of that back story.
- [Controlled burn planned in Cary](#) - *News & Observer* story about an effort between the town and the N.C. Forest Service to burn off fallen leaves and understory debris at the Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve. Public meeting planned on Monday to provide more information.
- [Six departments fight house fire in southern Wake County](#) - That's the FireNews.net version of last week's house fire in Apex, with text and photos from Yours Truly. And showcasing the nifty new site format that FireNews.net debuted a few weeks ago. Awfully handsome contributor photo as well!
- [DC Fire Chief proposes major changes](#) - Posting from Statter911 with 111 reader comments and counting. The Chief of Department is proposing cutting personnel and changing shift schedules. It's a window into a different world, that's for sure.

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.

Morning Commute

12/04/11 113 W, 1 I - + 4 - 2

Here's a familiar scene on Interstate 40, headed westbound just past Wade Avenue. Heck, it's a familiar sight in both directions, and along that stretch of road for a couple months. It also happens on Wade Avenue, heading into Raleigh. Question, why does Wade Avenue get slow outbound between the Beltline and Blue Ridge Road? Is the incline just too much for drivers, and everyone mysteriously drives slower than they need to? And wouldn't you love to see some stats on accident rates on that stretch of road? Has to be daily or better. Saw some guy in a Hawaiian shirt taking this photo, on the bridge there. Click to enlarge:



Once upon a time, apparently, the slope going downhill from Harrison, west bound to the Reedy Creek Rd bridge, must have been too much for most folks. Traffic would back up to Wade Avenue, but upon reaching the Reedy Creek Road overpass, traffic would launch out of there like they were on fire. Oh yeah, BTW, I thought that was you up there. The glare from that shirt was the give away...

DJ - 12/04/11 - 11:59

Sorry for the glare. I'll wear something bland-er next time. Not.

Here's a map and details of where the original Reedy Creek Road was located, back before the Wade Avenue extension:

<http://legeros.com/hidden-raleigh/roads...>

Legeros - 12/04/11 - 12:02

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

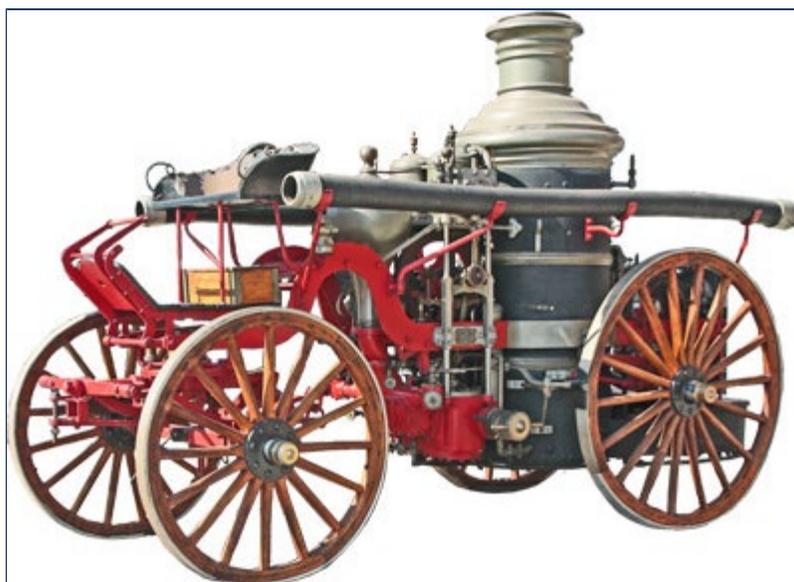
Small print: All html tags except and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Raleigh's Steamer Sans Trailer

12/04/11 143 W, 1 I - + 4 - 6

Among the antique apparatus stored at Station 28 on Forestville Road is a 1905 American LaFrance steam engine. This is the second steamer that was owned by the city, after a 1870 Gould. Here's [some of that history](#). The 1905 steamer is mounted on a trailer, and has sat on same for a few decades. What does the horse-drawn pumping engine look like on its own wheels?

Here's a special photo showing same. It's a doctored image, created using PhotoShop Elements. Look closely and you'll see the seams. Still pretty cool. With the [fire department's centennial anniversary](#) just around the corner, special attention is being paid to the steamer. More on that later. Now, let's get Mr. Blogger to update his various web pages, so this photo isn't just forgotten here on the blog. Memo to self: do that. Click to enlarge:



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.

Handbook For American Fire Engine Company Steam Engines

12/04/11 419 W - + 6 - 1

Ever wondered how to operate a steam fire engine? Here's a document that tells you how. It bears the lengthy title of *Handbook of the Steam Fire Engine with Instructions for the Running, Care, and Management of the Machine and Directions for Operating the Heater, Also Suggestions for the Care of Hose, and Other Useful Information*. It was published in 1897 by the American Fire Engine Company, which later merged with the LaFrance Fire Engine Company. You know where that lead! Below is an excerpt. [Read the entire document](#), which was created via OCR software, from a transcription that appears in *Those Magnificent Old Steam Fire Engines* by W. Fred Conway, published 1997 by FBH Publishers, New Albany, IN.

OPERATING THE ENGINE.

The engineer should start up the machine gradually, but before doing so he ought to satisfy himself that the joints and connections in the suction hose are air tight, that the discharge gate is open and the churn valve closed, and that the fire has been properly attended to. Let the cylinder cocks be open and the exhaust nearly closed, and all the bearings and journals well oiled. The wheels should be properly blocked, especially if standing on a grade. When starting, the throttle valve should be opened slowly at first, or condensed steam will be thrown out of the stack on the dome, and is liable to stain it.

The automatic air cocks on the upper pump heads must be opened immediately after starting. They serve to promptly relieve the upper pump chambers of air, and may be closed as soon as water is ejected from their orifices.

When condensation has ceased, the engine being warm, the drain cocks should be closed and the machine speeded up gradually until a good pressure of steam is obtained.

After the engine is fairly started, do not stand too close, but let your position be a step back; and, with your face towards the machine, endeavor to train your eyes and hands to command the entire situation. While it is perfectly proper to be near the throttle, in order to promptly close it in case of bursting hose or failure of the water supply, do not acquire the habit of constantly clinging to the same, for there are other duties equally as important that require your attention.

In the general hurry and rush, avoid all excitement, and let your duties be attended to in a calm and collected manner.

[Read the entire handbook](#)

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.

Early American LaFrance Deliveries in Wake County

12/04/11 152 W - + 6 - 1

Not counting the Captiol City. Those rigs are [listed on this web site](#), with details a-plenty. These records are a bit scarce, alas. They're from a database of American LaFrance apparatus compiled by the late great John Peckham. See our [blog post about same](#).

Apex

Type 10 pumper.

Registration #185.

Shipped to Shreveport, LA on April 10, 1912.

Traded in Atlanta on August 15, 1927.

Sold to Apex on October 1, 1927.

[Read AFD history.](#)

Cary

Chemical car.

Registration # F-849.

Two 35 gallon tanks, one-ton chassis.

No date in database.

Bid accepted by town on October 23, 1922.

[Read CFD history.](#)

Wake Forest

Combination hose and chemical car.

Registration # F-772.

One 40 gallon chemical tank, one-ton chassis.

No date in database.

Town approved purchase on September 19, 1921.

[Read WFD history.](#)

Zebulon

Combination hose and chemical car.

Registration #F-917.

One 40 gallon chemical tank, one-ton chassis.

No date in database.

First fire truck purchased by town in 1928.

[Read ZFD history.](#)

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.

Saturday's Live Burn in Selma

12/05/11 76 W, 1 I - + 6 - 3

Here's your Monday morning hot shot. That's the former Golden China Buffet Restaurant on Highway 70 at Ricks Road in Selma in Johnston County. Commercial structure fire, you ask? Nope, it's a training exercise. The stack of wooden pallets on the right gives that one away. Photographer Lee Wilson spent some time there Saturday and [has posted his photos](#). Readers can post the list of participating departments.



Lee Wilson photo

Selma, Pine Level, Smithfield, Micro, Wilsons Mills, Thanksgiving, Princeton, Brogden, Elevation, West Johnston, Nahunta, Oakland and I probably forgot one or two. Total of 56 Students, 13 Instructors.

House - 12/05/11 - 18:32

I saw apparatus from Selma, pine level, wilsons mills, elevation, thanksgiving, micro, and Smithfield fire departments.

charlie - 12/05/11 - 23:14

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.

Pierce Ladder... Headed to China

12/05/11 75 W, 1 I - + 17 - 5

Here's something you don't see everyday. From a reader at a Pierce plant in Wisconsin, here's an aerial ladder being built for a fire department in China. No idea what the lettering reads. Observe the hard suction included on the apparatus. Here's a [press release with more information](#) about sales of both Pierce and Oshkosh apparatus to China. Couple photos in the press release as well. Click to enlarge:



Is the guy next to the ARFF truck you Chinese counterpart/correspondent? Replete with camo Hawaiian shirt and all? Just missing the camera gear.

Duda ([Email](#)) - 12/06/11 - 11:29

This is great news. If history holds true, by next Christmas we can expect Chinese knock-off Pierce Aerials to be available on the internet and at your local flea markets. Pierce ladders for everyone (brand misspell intentional to protect the American patent)

Olson - 12/06/11 - 13:01

The side of the ladder reads "Nantong Fire Dept.", or at least that is how it was translated for me.

Griggs - 12/06/11 - 13:29

And we already have knock-offs of American fire apparatus **models**. Need to check my collection on that. I think the Legeros Toy Museum (e.g. Mike's Man Cave) is all authentic. Maybe I need take and post some pictures as well. Good holiday break activity.

Legeros - 12/06/11 - 13:49

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 Marker, Updated

03/04/12 81 W, 3 I - + 11 - 7

March 5

And here's another marker at the same location. This one reads Yadkin Street:



December 6, 2011

This was submitted by a mystery reader. (Meaning, identity concealed. Why someone would read this blog is a different mystery!) The thing reads Railroad Street. Where is it located and where did it come from?



Here's a closer view of the background:



Downtown Fuquay?

Bob P. - 12/06/11 - 11:35

Doesn't Knightdale also have a Railroad St?

BC - 12/06/11 - 13:43

Looks like something over around Peace College, maybe. Raleigh has a Railroad St over there somewhere, and that looks like the street markers that were used in Raleigh until the 70s. Of course, it could also be in Wake Forest...

DJ - 12/06/11 - 23:18

I will have to agree that it is probably over by Seaboard Ave. Looks like the Archdale Bldg in the background right above the RR St sign.

Marcus - 12/07/11 - 05:09

Raleigh is correct, but curiously, it's not in the area of Seaboard Avenue.

Legeros - 12/07/11 - 08:08

Closer view added of background.

Legeros - 12/07/11 - 08:40

Dawson and W. Cabarrus?

train coming - 12/07/11 - 15:53

Maybe the parking lot behind the Berkley Cafe and the old downtown EMS station?

Marcus - 12/07/11 - 17:58

How about over by the fairgrounds? Kinda looks like one of those Westchase buildings in the background.

Pat Sajak - 12/07/11 - 21:37

looks somewhere close to the convention center...

ed - 12/07/11 - 22:44

Ed and Marcus are gettin' close...

Legeros - 12/07/11 - 22:58

One guess is over there by New Bern Place.....but then another side of me wants to go with the area by West St./ Harrington and W. Martin.

Maybe? - 12/08/11 - 00:59

I saw this very marker last night. It is in the parking lot behind the building at 318 S. McDowell Street in Raleigh. There are a dozen or so old concrete street markers back there. I'm currently in the process of trying to get one (legally).

Ian F.G. Dunn ([Email](#)) - 06/25/15 - 10:39

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.

December 10, 1941

12/07/11 438 W, 1 I - + 6 - 4

Three days after the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the state's fire chiefs and police chiefs convened at the Capitol. They were addressed by the Governor, who announced his plans to invoke emergency authority and confer police power upon the Highway Patrol. He also addressed the possibility of air raids. "Nobody doubts but that, while there would be sharp resistance and gallant opposition, it would be possible for the Germans or the Japanese to send planes over our country." He asked that police and firemen also strive to keep public morale at a high level in the event of emergencies.

There were sessions conducted on civilian defense, including one conducted by State Fire Marshal Sherwood Brockwell. He was also the recently named coordinator of state defense against fire. Some 170 fire chiefs listened and took notes as Brockwell lectured on identifying and combating incendiary bombs. He was helped by Lt. Kenlon H. Brockwell, his son and Post Fire Marshal at Fort Bragg, and Capt. J. M. Munday, Drill Master of the Charlotte Fire Department. (If Munday's name seems familiar, he died on duty in 1955. He was an Assistant Chief and suffered a coronary.)

From the December 11, 1941, issue of the *New & Observer*: "Brockwell demonstrated the content of an incendiary bomb and explained the equipment needed and the procedure for extinguishing it. From a chart, he explained the appearance and effect of armor piercing, demolition, fragmentation, aerial mine, light and scatter aerial bombs. [He] also explained the action of white phosphorous and thermite, the formerly highly adaptable to sabotage, and offered ways of counteracting their flames." He explained thermite is used against oil deposits, and urged special precautions in such places as Wilmington.

Fire chiefs were urged to coordinate their departments for "mutual assistance" in the event of raids. They were told that they should also depend on "mobilized, organized civilian aid." The attending police chiefs, meanwhile, discussed deputizing citizens in the event of emergencies. They were urged to "prepare lists of 'qualified and dependable men'" for same. The Governor the day before had issued bulletin to the mayors of North Carolina cities with over 5,000 people, describing how to organize Civilian Protection Committees. Bulletins to smaller towns were pending. (Auxiliary fire companies would be organized in a number of cities and towns, including in Raleigh.)

This photo appeared in the aforementioned *News & Observer* story with the headline "Fire Chiefs Hear Air Raid Lecture." Pictured left to right are Kenlon Brockwell, Sherwood Brockwell, and J. M. Munday. [Click to enlarge:](#)



News & Observer 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'?

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

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.

Dalmatian is Durham Highway Firefighters' Best Friend

12/07/11 39 W, 1 I - + 13 - 3

Here's a nice story from WRAL's *TarHeel Traveller* about Angus the fire dog, everyone's familiar and beloved canine friend at Durham Highway Fire Department. [Watch the story](#) or click to play:



That was a great news clip on Angus and the durham Highway FD. Are there any other NC FD' with mascots?

Clay Simmons ([Email](#)) - 12/07/11 - 11:08

Angus is such a huge part of the fire service history in this county and everyone loves him! I sure hope you guys are planning on getting another Dalmatian upon his unfortunate retirement, I can't imagine not having him around the area for public safety stuff etc. He really helps to cultivate a good image for the fire service :)

John - 12/07/11 - 11:41

Mount Holly Fire/Rescue in Gaston County has a dalmation at each station. Pierce at Station 34 and Spartan at Station 33.

rocket33 - 12/07/11 - 16:33

Clayton Fire Dept has LUCY. She wears a gold badge and hates a cigarette lighter. And is always riding shotgun with Car 1

Paul Zais ([Email](#)) - 12/07/11 - 17:15

Lucy hates me as well!

lee - 12/07/11 - 23:56

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.

Tuesday's Big Blaze in Holden Beach

12/07/11 108 W, 1 I - + 6 - 2

Found this on Firehouse.com, from the Wilmington *Star-News*. Explosions on Holden Beach shortly before 5 a.m. Tuesday. Unoccupied homes times two ablaze on [Starfish Drive](#). Flames shooting 20 feet over the tops of the burning roofs. Daylight brought the damage report. Fire started at 115 Starfish Drive and spread to 113 Starfish Drive. Also destroyed were two boats on trailers in a vacant lot, and two others damaged. Tri-Beach FD, Supply FD, Civietown FD, and Grissetown-Longwood FD responded. [Read the entire story](#), which also includes a video clip. See also [this News 14 story](#), which has morning-after footage.



Christopher Critz/Star-News photo

Mike, if I am not mistaken Tri-Beach has a substation on the island and it is actually on the corner of Starfish Dr and Ocean Blvd. I wonder how the station faired and if there was any damage, The streets on the island are only about 1/4 mile long so it could not have been far from the building.

justin - 12/08/11 - 01:32

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.

Morrisville's New Fire Station... Almost Ready!

12/08/11 250 W, 1 I - + 7 - 7

Looks like Morrisville's new fire station is close to completion. The three-bay building is located at 200 Town Hall Drive. Here's the [town's project page](#). The current Station 1 is located on Morrisville-Carpenter Road. According to [my research](#) (done several years ago), this is the fourth "central fire station" for the town. Let's see what we can learn...

First Building

- Opened in 1955
- Tin shed behind Red and White Store on original section of Morrisville-Carpenter Road.
- Believe the store building is still standing. Maybe two blocks remain of the old road.

Second Building

- Constructed in 1958.
- Brick or more likely block building. Had a-frame facade, if memory serves from a photo seen somewhere (but not in my possession).
- One door/bay that housed the [department's first pumper](#) and a brush truck.
- Where was that building located? Again behind the Red and White?

Third Building / Current Fire Station 1

- Constructed in 1960
- Located on Morrisville-Carpenter Road.
- Two bays facing east.
- In 1963, two more bays and meeting room added.
- In 1984, three bays were added. Did that make the station seven-bays in width, or were some bays made deeper?
- In 1992, the station underwent a complete renovation. The a-frame roof was added.
- Around 1997, some of the bays were closed and the remaining bays were reoriented to face north. This was done when the road was shifted west, to join with Aviation Parkway.

Anyway, click to enlarge this photo, taken yesterday while passing through town. Looking forward to the grand opening!



I wonder if Cary had to approve the placement of this station (just joking). I wonder when Morrisville is getting their third station built? Any guys on here from the Ville that can elaborate. Great looking station guys. Congrats.

Scott - 12/09/11 - 09:19

noting that there is space for an EMS unit listed on the project page, is EMS 54 going to be moving to the new station?

shevais - 12/09/11 - 12:37

I believe they have decided to leave 54 where it is at (Moville #2). I think they said it was going to be close to 52 and not be close enough to the airport. The Moville battalion chief was going to relocate there but I think someone said they are also going to stay at station 2.

Spanky - 12/09/11 - 19:06

The doors were rearrange around 1997. It was done when the road was shifted to join with Aviation Pkwy.

David - 12/11/11 - 18:15

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.

Now That's a Construction Sign!

12/08/11 48 W, 1 I - + 8 - 2

Also seen in Morrisville, on the corner of Cary Parkway and Chapel Hill Road. Big shopping center being erected. Some stores already open. Good food stuffs across the street, opposite Cary Parkway. That's one booming town!



Am I the only one thinking about Top Gun here?

Chuck - 12/21/11 - 11:51

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.

Morning Reading - December 9, 2011

12/09/11 393 W - + 4 - 3

Good morning Raleigh. We'll open the fire museum tomorrow morning from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Keeter Training Center. Second Saturday of the month, our regular schedule. [More details on the museum](#). Tragedy all around in the news late this week, with police officer and firefighter deaths both near and far. [Dave Statter's site](#) in particular has numerous details on the death of Worcester, MA, firefighter Jon Davies. Below are less-serious subjects and articles from recent days.

- [Motorcycle Medics Reach the Injured Faster in Austin](#) - Govtech.com story sent by a reader. Medics in Austin, TX, are trying a different mode of transportation for reaching scenes on Interstate 35. Been used before, for nearly five years in Miami-Dade County in Florida. Plus in London, where the concept originated. Wonder if it would be useful here? Such as, say, for a certain stretch of Interstate 40.
- [Photo of Johnston County Derailment, May 15, 1994](#) - Railpictures.net has this photo from Patrick Treadway, two days after an Amtrak passenger train (oxymoron?) derailed at the town limits of Selma and Smithfield. That incident is being discussed in our [prior posting about recent Unusual Accidents](#), and with a couple readers recounting their memories. We'll see if can construct and post a narrative from that day.
- [Five Bags in St. Louis](#) - *Post-Dispatch* story and a small selection of stunning photos by Erik M. Lunsford. Been an age and then some since we've seen a commercial fire of that magnitude in these parts. Makes me think of the Reynolds tobacco plant fire in Winston-Salem in 1998.
- [Steam Engine Details](#) - Ever wondered what all those knobs, levers, dials, and gauges do on a steam fire engine? We're working to document ours, the 1905 American LaFrance Metropolitan that's parked at Fire Station 28. [We also posted a handbook](#) for operating American steamers from 1897. Good reading!
- [Bad Publicity?](#) - IronFiremen.com offers a contrarian perspective on *Charlotte Magazine's* excellent recent article about Charlotte Engine 15. We [blogged about that one earlier](#). But does it also cast the crew and the department in a negative light? Still forming thoughts on that one. Dave Statter added [his take over here](#), as well. Again, still forming thoughts. Just how real can or should firefighters be, in what's presented or will be seen by others? Pontifications possibly 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 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.

Falls of Neuse Road Bridge Over Neuse River to Close Beginning Monday Dec. 12

12/10/11 181 W, 3 I - + 5 - 2

Press release. One of the oldest bridges in Wake County will be closed beginning Monday, December 12 at 9 a.m. as crews prepare to tear it down and replace it with a new bridge. The 73-year-old bridge over the Neuse River on Falls of Neuse Road is one of the 10 oldest state-maintained bridges in Wake County. Message board signs have already been put in place alerting motorists of the closing. The new bridge is scheduled to be open by June 1, 2013. [Read entire press release.](#)



And here are a couple prior postings about the bridges, when the new bridge [was being finished](#) and the [morning of its opening](#). The latter included this digram showing the various sections of road. Dam interesting. Click once or twice to enlarge:

to a large number of wrecks there, especially when it snows! There is a portion of the guard rail where you can faintly see "River Rats" in spray paint. That was likely done in the 70's or early 80's by the original "River Rats".

Rhodes - 12/10/11 - 12:28

I remember that wreck. We had 2 new guys on the rescue that day (1st day new), I remember telling them to NOT to get off the truck until they took the tags off their brand new turnout gear. I also remember the DOT guy almost crapped himself when he arrived on scene and saw all the fire trucks parked on the bridge! "Ya'll gotta move them things NOW!!!" Haha.

Matty - 12/14/11 - 00:47

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.

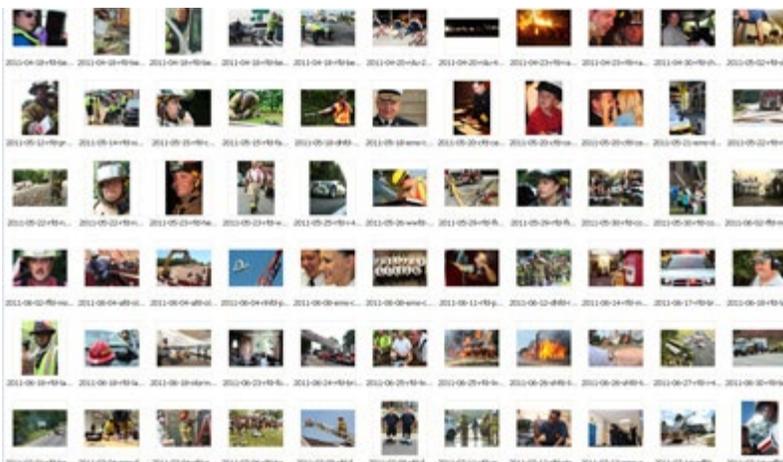
Picking Photos

12/12/11 303 W, 1 I - + 6 - 2

One of my prior immersive (read: obsessive) hobbies was [writing movie reviews](#) that were posted on the Internet. Started with USENET newsgroups (remember those?) and progressed to a web site named Movie Hell. One of my annual tasks come Christmastime was writing a "year in review"-- thoughts on the hundreds of movies I had seen and the theater (and writing) experiences therein. This tradition has continued with fire photography, with an [annual compilation of favorite photos](#). They're also linked on the archives page of www.legeros.com/firepics.

This is a time-consuming exercise, for starters. From January 1 to October 31, for example, that translates to 204 folders and 12,000+ images. Some are skimmed by looking at the thumbnails in a folder view. The majority are viewed at full-size. And everything is reviewed quickly; a fast succession of images, with just enough time to register those that make me react. The "wow" photos. The ones that make me stop scrolling. (Plus some "non-wow" photos that have sentimental or other appeal.)

It's also an instructive exercise and functions a personal performance review. I get a great self-review of my craft, as well as a chance to remember and even relive some of the captured incidents and events. (Being a fire photographer means also critiquing your behavior on scene.) The resulting collection is also useful and can serve as starting point for people looking for particular photos. Sort of a stock-photo collection. This year's set will be posted around January 1. The set will again be somewhat subjective; some/many incidents will be missing. And since I just posted a [collection of people pictures](#), the number of faces may be smaller this time. We'll see what happens. Check back in a couple weeks.



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.

Two Children Rescued at Raleigh Apartment Fire

12/14/11 193 W, 2 I - + 6 - 2

Raleigh firefighters rescued two children early this morning at an apartment fire ~~1534~~ 1536 North Raleigh Boulevard. The children suffered smoke inhalation and entered respiratory distress. One was resuscitated on scene. Two adults self-evacuated. All four were treated on scene by Wake County EMS. The children were transported to WakeMed.

Units were dispatched at 4:25 a.m. Engine 7 was first on scene at the two-story, brick building with 5,292 square-feet, with heavy smoke and fire showing. Battalion 2 took command on his arrival, and requested a second alarm about ten minutes into the incident. Staging was just south of the scene on Raleigh Boulevard, about a block north of Fire Station 7.

Fire investigators and other units were still on scene at daybreak. The cause was determined as accidental due to unattended cooking. Photographers Lee Wilson and Mike Legeros (below) went to the scene, and will provide more details with their posted pictures. See [Lee's photos](#), see [Legeros photos](#). News coverage: [News & Observer](#), [WRAL](#), [WTVD](#),

December 15 update: Added links to photos and *News & Observer* story.



Outstanding work RFD!

Candice - 12/14/11 - 12:51

Where were the children located in the house, and which company or companies made the grabs?

Mike - 12/15/11 - 11:28

Awesome job....

This is what I heard; perfect example of teamwork and a bread and butter operation; while the crew of Engine 7 knocked the fire on the first floor and protected the stairs, the crew of Rescue 2 was able to ascend the stairs and make the grab. If anyone that was there can confirm/deny/correct this, please do so.

Again, awesome job!

Silver - 12/15/11 - 12:45

Good Job Brothers!

AB - 12/15/11 - 14:52

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.

Watching Videos

12/15/11 117 W - + 5 - 0

Watching a pair of YouTube videos, found during my semi-regular search on "fire NC" and "fire department NC" and "house fire NC." There isn't a lot of current or recent fire footage on that site. Neither from fire photogs nor fire departments. Draw conclusions as desired. These two were interesting to me. Nearly two minutes of exterior operations at a house fire during snow (!) in Beaufort in January 2011, and a fast-moving fire in Orlando, FL, also from January. The second video was found as a related/suggested video for the first one. Shows just how fast-moving that fast fire is moving, as well as residents' attempts to extinguish.

Mike I agree there are No videos, at least I havent found of NC incidents

Clay Simmons ([Email](#)) - 12/15/11 - 11:35

I draw a comparison to the seeming plethora (please pay 25 cents for that word) of fire videos from "up north," at least I see frequently featured on other fire blogs. Why don't we have even a minimal quantity in these parts? I think there are a couple possible reasons. First is probably the fewer fires, and how that translates to the hobbyist photographer. (But which is different than the freelance/stringer news photographer, like Carter in Johnston County, who has been taping for years.)

If you're a buff and inclined toward video, there just might not be enough "action" to shoot to keep you interested and sustained in the pursuit.

(And we'll use "action" to denote flames showing, versus aftermath footage. Maybe our state doesn't have enough "big burners"— due to younger cities and less urban density— to compel videographers to action. At least on any sort of regular basis.)

But what about the workers that do happen, and that could be/are photographed by their departments? Why don't we see more department-released footage? Good question there. Let me think about it, and let me ponder if that's usual or unusual. Meaning, are most fire videos that can be found privately shot, or a mix of private versus departmental?

Legeros - 12/16/11 - 08:36

There is a different mindset between north and south. Having worked around both, I'll offer this- Down south we are more reserved. We are also more suppressed, in a sense. There seem to be more suppressive policies related to cameras, pictures, video, social media, etc. Up north we are not so reserved, and there is even a sort of 'bragging rights' at stake. Policies that suppress some of these activities are a little harder to get past some of the unions, plus, the mind set is that it is more accepted, it seems.

That follows with other contrasts I have noticed. Up north there is a more public display of company and unit pride. It is not just in the station that you see posters, pictures, custom tables, etc., but you see it on the apparatus, the helmets, etc. Down south, there is more uniformity, especially, it seems, in the smaller agencies.

To quote the Food Lion cat- "Just my \$0.02 worth."

It is different around these parts - 02/03/14 - 10:18

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.

Yesterday's Fires at Night

12/16/11 117 W, 2 I - + 7 - 2

Four sets of [photos have been posted](#) of nighttime fires from yesterday. Three from Lee and one from Legeros. [East Lenoir Street](#) (Lee), from yesterday morning; Northfield Drive ([Lee](#) and [Legeros](#)) and [Raceview Terrace](#) (Lee) from last night, a pair of early evening working fires in the Engine 9-Engine 4 corridor along Six Forks Road. Below are two views from Northfield, both using external flash to illuminate what was a very dark scene. My my notes are minimal on that one. Ambient light in some, external flash in others. Varied settings. Slower lens, since my better one's in the shop. Still learning, still have homework to do.



Lee Wilson photo



Mike Legeros 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'?

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

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.

Military Surplus Pumper For Sale

12/16/11 56 W, 2 I - + 5 - 5

From a reader, this former Marine Corps pumper was photographed at the state surplus facility on Garner Road. Sale priced at \$4,500, says the sticker in the window. High-wheelbase, maybe originally designed for snow, sand, or brush duty? Lettered for Comfort VFD, of which there's one in Tennessee. Click to enlarge:



mike i have been a follower of your website for a long time. i am a ff/emt in ohio and a former parkwood and falls firefighter in nc. anyway i'm not saying your wrong about this truck but i did a google search and there's a comfort volunteer rural fire dept in jones county, nc which is over by the coast. i never found anything about a comfort vol fd in tn. still doesn't solve the mystery of the all wheel drive setup.

chris clark - 12/16/11 - 17:15

Mike, Back when I lived in N.C. Comfort was a town near the coast, I think in Jones County, but maybe Craven or Lenior. It was down that way. And being in the general area of Camp Lejune I suspect this pumper may have come from there.

Galax,Va - 12/16/11 - 17:16

Thanks gang, Comfort FD in Jones County indeed sounds like a more likely match!

Legeros - 12/16/11 - 19:09

The USAF called these P-8 pumpers and used them for brush fire protection. The military purchased the Ford C 4×4s with Pierce bodies between 1981 and 1984 and typically had 500 GPM pumps, 600-gallons tanks, and a 55-gallon class B foam tank.

BFD1151 - 12/16/11 - 20:27

Mike I checked with a guy I know on Comfort FD and the truck was indeed one of their old engines used for a while if was recieved through the Forestry Service and was used at Camp Lejune. Comfort is on Hwy 41 between Trenton and Beaulaville in Jones County.

car3550 - 12/20/11 - 21:05

Very cool! Thanks for inquiring and passing along.

Legeros - 12/20/11 - 21:07

Anyone know if this truck is still for sale? Any contact number?

Chris Yaroch ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/15/14 - 15:48

It could very well be a USAF P-8A (the only examples I've found were from 1982). These crew cabs models were few and far between. The only place I ever saw them was the fire school at Chanute AFB. The Standard P-8 had a Ford C-Cab and firefighters road the tailboard. These replaced the Ward LaFrance pumpers. And were themselves replaced by KME equipment until the USAF returned to Pierce, who they still deal with.

Bob Jarvis - 08/22/15 - 16:49

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.

Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - *Vintage Slides of* « Military Surplus Pump... » Which Rescue is Which... the Training Center

Vintage Slides of the Training Center

12/17/11 285 W, 2 I - + 5 - 0

Let's hope in our wayback machine and [take a trip to the mid-1970s](#). Our physical location will be the Raleigh Fire Department training center off South Wilmington Street (or was it still called Highway 15A?), and some years before the classroom building was built and the facility was renamed Keeter Training Center. What we'll watch are some high-expansion foam operations, and the filling of the smokehouse with suds.

The department had a pair of these machines-- equipped with small engines and long canvas chutes-- and they were carried on a pair of pick-me-up trucks. Foam 1 was downtown (Station 1), Foam 5 was at Cameron Village (Station 5). The latter was purchased and donated by shopping center owner Willie York, and for use in the Village Underground (remember that?). Readers can add their stories about high-ex and other old training tower tales.

By the time one M. Legeros was (briefly) a firefighter and stationed at Station 5, the foam truck was still in service. That one was a 1965 International. Three forward gears, if memory serves. Shifting lever on the steering color. Tiny siren under the hood. Here's a fun memory: one of the rescue trucks was out of service, so they piled their Hurst tools and more in the bed of one of those trucks. Then they threw a canvas tarp over the thing. 'Twas a funny sight when rescue rolled on scene!

But back to the slides. **Do you have or know of other old slides?** Please contact the [Raleigh Fire Department historical society](#). We'll get 'em and share 'em and keep 'em safe. [View and enjoy the slides](#).





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.

Which Rescue is Which?

12/17/11 65 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

Quick question for the gearheads. Which of these old Raleigh rescue units is a 1974 Chevy Silverado versus a 1975 Chevy Silverado? Look at the grills or the beacon colors. (At least one reader has told me before-- that's you, Dale-- but my memory fails me regarding where those notes are recorded.) I will update my [apparatus database](#) accordingly. Click to enlarge:



Purdy sure the one on the right, or the closest one is the 1975, and the other the 1974.

Galax, Va - 12/17/11 - 14:43

Galax is right. The one on the left (1974) started out as R9, and the one on the right (1975) started out as R1. It moved soon to R3, and they stayed that way for some time. The grill is the difference on the Chevrolet trucks from 1973 through 1980, with subtle differences each year.

Dale - 12/17/11 - 18:18

Thanks guys, that's helpful.

Legeros - 12/17/11 - 19:48

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [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.

More Vintage Slides

12/18/11 128 W, 2 I - + 6 - 1

While we're cruising down memory lane, let's look at a second set of 35mm color slides, also from the 1970s and also found at the training center. These surfaced in 2007. They were supposed to be available on the [Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society photo page](#), but the link didn't get added. Guess we'll blame their webmaster, which is the same person that's writing this blog posting. [Insert sound effect of Homer Simpson saying "d'oh!"] We meaning me has restored the link, and added annotations to the photos. Names with some faces, and questions with some others. There are some great apparatus shots in this deck, in particular. [See the slides](#).



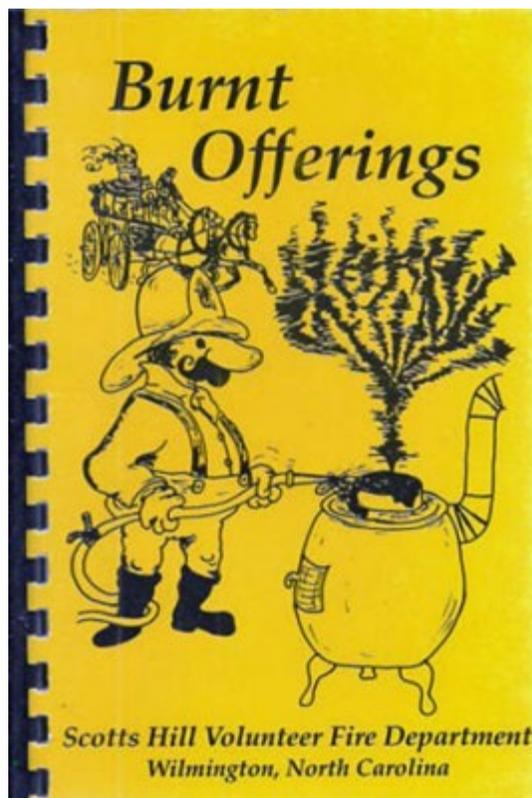
Name: (real name preferred)

Remember personal info?

Scotts Hill Fire Department Cookbook

12/19/11 166 W, 1 I - + 6 - 3

Here's something interesting [found for sale on eBay](#), a coil-bound cookbook published in 1991 by the Scotts Hill Fire Department north of Wilmington in Pender County. The 76-page document was likely created a fundraiser. Search eBay and you'll see similar documents from around the country. How many cookbooks have been created and sold around here? That's a good question! The Morrisville Fire Department produced one in 1975.¹ Readers might recall others. As for the Scotts Hill Fire Department and which [we've blogged about before](#), they operated from 1977 to 1992. Probably didn't operate horse-drawn equipment, however. Will check on that! [Read about more former fire departments](#) in North Carolina.



¹Recipes included Mildred Howard's "Congealed Salad," Hilda F. Carpenter's "Persimmon Pudding," Onnie Riggsbee's "Cola Cake," Mary Frances Ferrell's "Mayonnaise Biscuits," Gayle Mills' "Hamburger Goulash," Mary Hill's "Porcupine Meat Balls," and Cleo Meachum's "Corned Beef Casserole."

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

Remember personal info?
Yes

Morning Reading - December 19, 2011

12/19/11 449 W - + 3 - 3

Good morning Raleigh. 'Tis the season for retirements. Best of wishes to our friends in Raleigh and Cary (among other places) who are celebrating (or have celebrated) their last day or last shift. See you on the other side. New response assignments in Raleigh. Have you noticed the changes, notably a fourth engine now dispatched on structure fires? And a second ladder added for apartments, commercial, and industrial structures. More on that later. Now onto some reading.

- [Firefighter injured in Vance County house fire](#) - FireNews.net has a short report on a Sunday morning mobile-home fire that sent one firefighter to the Jaycee Burn Center at UNC with second-degree burns to his face. Four occupants were injured, including two children. They were transported to Duke. The Henderson *Daily Dispatch* has a [few more incident details](#). We'll add more as information as available.
- [Neighbor rescued Raleigh couple from burning house](#) - WRAL story about Thursday night's house fire on Northfield Drive in lower north Raleigh. That's their second story on the fire, following [yesterday's story about the homeowners](#), what they lost, and the helping hands that have been extended.
- [Social media restraint during firefighter injury or duty death](#) - Posting from The Fire Critic with valuable perspectives on how responders should conduct themselves when they learn of an injury or worse in their department. Yours Truly has added a comment about the "party line effect" observed around here. Facebook can be a strong source for information, but what happens when family members receive information ahead of official notifications? Good discussion over there.
- [What gives? Not outrage over ghoulish photographers shooting bodies](#) - That's just part of Dave Statter's customarily long headline asking a pointed question one year after a confrontation between a Connecticut State Trooper and a news photographer at a fatal vehicle fire. He's posed his question in the wake of several postings of his that have featured fatal fire footage, but yet have provoked no outrage. Has something changed, he asks? Or are there deeper reasons? Another good discussion.
- [Historical photos of the Raleigh Fire Department](#) - That part of [www.raleighfirehistory.org](#), e.g. the Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society. Two fabulous sets of vintage color slides were added this weekend, [one found last week](#) and the other [from some years ago](#). Color images from "back in the day" are exceedingly rare. Thus these are a great find. The photo page itself is a sampling of a couple thousand images that we have. Big thanks to the *News & Observer*, for their permission to include their images from the North Carolina State Archives.

Let's update the third link title above. Social media restraint versus social media discipline. Makes a little more sense to read.

Legeros - 12/20/11 - 08:44

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

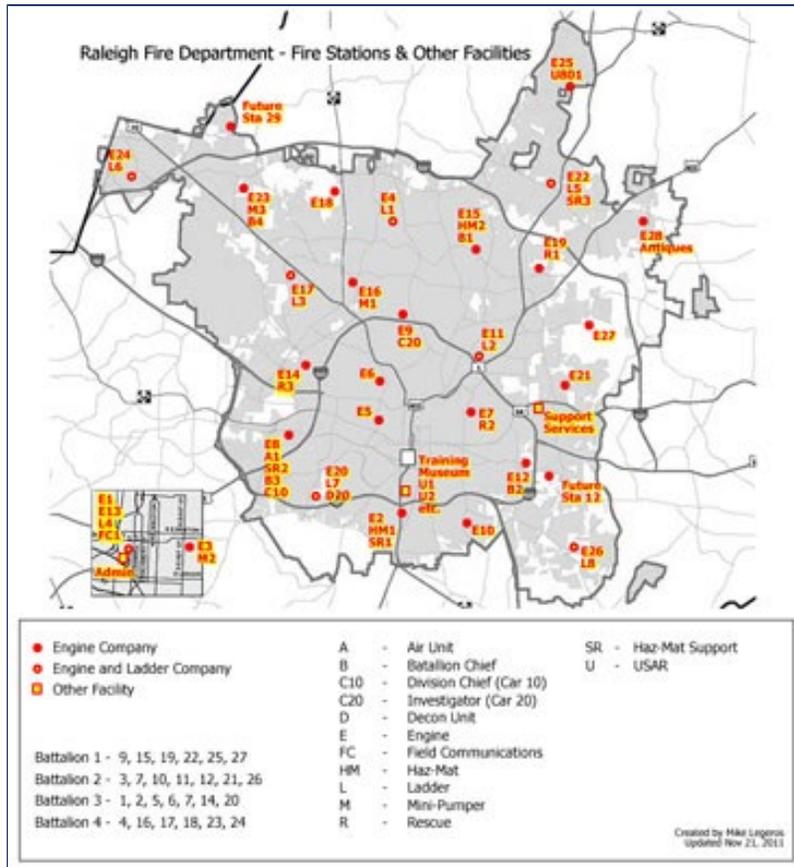
Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Map of Raleigh Fire Stations

12/20/11 80 W, 1 I - + 6 - 1

Forgot to mention this one last month, an updated version of my map of Raleigh fire stations and other facilities (including the museum!). Now an appealing grey instead of puke green. Created using a city limits map downloaded from the City of Raleigh web portal. Graphics software for creating the circles and letters and boxes. Eyeballs of others to review and advise corrections. Click **once or twice** to enlarge. Linked from [my unofficial site](#).



Am I the only one who thinks 'helicopter' when I read 'Air unit'? :-)

Paul - 12/20/11 - 09:06

Does E-8 not belong to a battalion? Must be the rogue engine company.

H2O - 12/21/11 - 09:06

Good catch! Will fix.

Legeros - 12/21/11 - 09:12

Hey Mike – Also... E-28 in the "Batt-1" listing!

A.C. Rich - 12/22/11 - 12:31

Veterans Affairs Fire Departments / Oteen Fire Department

12/21/11 272 W, 1 I - + 9 - 1

[We've blogged before](#) about institutional fire departments, of which several have served in North Carolina. What about fire departments operated by the US Department of Veterans Affairs? There are twenty VA medical center/hospital fire department in the United States, says a reader who shares the below list. Thanks Greg! Some have web sites (check Google) and that include fire apparatus photos:

- VAFD, Alexandria, LA
- VAFD, Bath, NY
- VAFD, Battle Creek, MI
- VAFD, Butler, PA
- VAFD, Canandaigua, NY
- VAFD, Castle Point, NY
- VAFD, Chillicothe, OH
- VAFD, Coatsville, PA
- VAFD, Fort Harrison, MO
- VAFD, Fort Meade, SD
- VAFD, Hot Springs, SD
- VAFD, Lyons, NJ
- VAFD, Martinsburg, WV
- VAFD, Montrose, NY
- VAFD, No. Little Rock, AK
- VAFD, Northport, NY (Long Island)
- VAFD, Perry Point, MD
- VAFD, Togus, ME
- VAFD, Tomha, WI
- VAFD, Tuskegee, AL

None in North Carolina, presently. Going back a few decades, however, and the Oteen Veterans Hospital in Asheville had a fire department. We've also [blogged about them before](#). Below is a picture from 1922, and the department was active until at least 1955. The pictured apparatus is a 1918 American LaFrance Type 75 Triple Combination. Registration number 2234. It was shipped on June 18, 1918. The destination was a tuberculosis hospital in Azalea, NC. The location of the rig as noted in [John Peckham's ALF database](#) was later changed to Hospital #19 Oteen. That refers to US Army General Hospital No. 19, which opened in 1918. At some point, perhaps the two hospitals joined forces for fire protection. Or maybe the Army took over the role and the rig. [Read more of that history and the current historical district](#). Click to enlarge:



Response Changes in Raleigh

12/21/11 512 W - + 7 - 4

For anyone that listens to a radio or scanner, "reading the tones" is a soon-acquired skill. On the Raleigh Fire Department dispatch channel (alert talkgroup), two tones typically means a fire alarm. Engine and ladder. Three tones usually means a vehicle overturned. Engine, ladder, rescue. On the other end, ten or twelve tones means something big. High-rise structure, full haz-mat response, full USAR response. If you've got a really good ear, you can even identify which tones are which units. (Those skilled listeners are usually the ones working in the fire stations. Or, cough cough, sitting beside a scanner all day long. You know who you/we are...)

You've probably noticed a few more tones of late, and a more units dispatched on structure fires in Raleigh. Beginning late last week (December 15), dispatch assignments were changed for a number of call types. These changes are an extension-- or have been made possible-- by [this summer's implementation](#) of Emergency Fire Dispatch. More accurate call types = more accurate control of assigned assets, as desired by the department(s) served by the communications center. The Raleigh Fire Department has thus adjusted a number of their responses.

Two of the most noticeable changes involve structure fire responses:

- Multi-residential, commercial, and industrial structure fires. Two ladders are now dispatched on the initial response, instead of just a single ladder company. There are eight ladders (and 28 engines) in the city. [Here's a map](#) showing all stations and equipment. Hey, it's even up-to-date.
- Structure fire dispatch, except high-rise. The fourth engine company—which functions as the Safety Company—is now dispatched on the initial response, instead of the working fire dispatch. This elevates the initial response to four engines, one or two ladders (see above), one rescue, and one Battalion Chief. (And the working fire dispatch is reduced by one unit, to just Air 1, Car 10, and Car 20.)

The other changes are a bit more varied:

- Structure fires involving hazardous materials. One haz-mat company has been added to the standard structure fire response, which is based on building type. High-rise versus non-high rise.
- Woods/grass/brush fire (outside fire) greater than one acre. Two engines, one mini pumper, and one Battalion Chief are now dispatched. Those smaller than one acre will continue to receive one engine.
- Vehicle accidents with confirmed pinned subjects. One Battalion Chief has been added. The response to overturned vehicles remains one engine, one ladder, and one rescue.
- Elevator rescue. One ladder has been added. The response is now one engine, one ladder, and one rescue.
- Full haz-mat or full USAR response. One Battalion Chief and One Division Chief replaces the prior response of two Battalion Chiefs. Lots o' tones on those!
- High-rise structure fires. Ladder companies will be dispatched only on the first two alarms, for a total of four ladders. No ladder companies will be dispatched on third, fourth, or fifth alarms.

These are exciting changes (spoken like a true geek), and it may inspire some of the other town and county fire departments in similar directions.

Seems like we tweak the tweaks and brake whats not broken.

But this is a darn good change. In my large city (Dallas), we've been operating the response and alarms like this for a while now. This new procedure is dead on. It works in todays evolving fire operations.

Congrats Raleigh! Well done.

JE - 12/21/11 - 11:15

Kudos to RFD for making two ladders standard on multi-family and commercial occupancies! Truck work has come a long way there. I, along

with many, many others wish we would do the same, but there hasn't been any change.

Drives The Truck - 12/21/11 - 12:31

@DrivesTheTruck; keep your head up Brother and don't give up!!

Silver - 12/21/11 - 13:19

The county does not follow everything that the city does. Resources are not always available in the county with volunteer departments which is a luxury that the city does not need worry about. The idea is a good one but will not take hold everywhere.

county - 12/21/11 - 13:48

@county; not sure of your point. Nobody said the county had to adopt this as their dispatch protocol as well.

City - 12/22/11 - 18:05

@ County-

"Drives The Truck" isn't a local person. He was referring to where he works, which isn't around here.

Wayne - 12/22/11 - 18:37

@County... How can you say the resources are not available with the county vol. depts... They have Engines, Tankers, Heavy Rescues, Ladders and Brush trucks... And if they did use the dispatch protocol now in place the proper resources could respond as needed and not try to pull everything from one or 2 depts.

Jim - 12/23/11 - 07:25

I applaud the RFD Management Team for this proactive decision! There are still some very minor dispatch glitches in CAD/EFD, but the outcome of more resources on the scene is a premium... and above all else, enhances member safety! In regards to county resources, a department only needs to adjust their run order and CAD capabilities assigned to their apparatus and they will receive more resources "on dispatch." We all (hopefully) agree that "Automatic mutual aid" is much better than the traditional "Mutual aid." Merry Christmas everyone!

A.C. Rich - 12/24/11 - 09:31

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.

Update #1 - Raleigh Fire Captain Killed in Car Accident

12/22/11 206 W, 1 I - + 6 - 5

Update on December 22 at 10:00 a.m.

Gracie Nipper remains at Duke Medical Center. She underwent a four-hour surgery last night to repair multiple fractures to her legs, wrist, and ribs. She is scheduled for additional surgery tomorrow. The doctors have given her a good prognosis, with a long recovery time. No arrangements have been made for Capt. Nipper's funeral service. The family and the fire department thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

A press conference by Fire Chief John McGrath is planned at Fire Administration at 2:00 p.m. today. The location is 310 W. Martin Street.

--

Jonathan Scott Nipper, 43, a Captain with the Raleigh Fire Department, was killed on Wednesday, December 21, in a traffic accident in Oxford in Granville County. His daughter Gracie Nipper, 10, was riding with him, and was airlifted to Duke Medical Center. She was last reported as stable with multiple fractures, and underwent surgery this evening. Capt. Nipper joined the fire department in January 1996. He was assigned to Station 1 on South Dawson Street. He was off-duty at the time of the accident. News coverage includes [WRAL](#), [WTVD](#), and [News & Observer](#).



Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Nipper family during this difficult time so close to the holidays

Charlie H - 12/21/11 - 23:33

My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and the Raleigh Fire Department

charlie - 12/22/11 - 04:34

New Multi-Training Simulator For Raleigh

12/22/11 109 W, 2 I - + 7 - 5

The Raleigh Fire Department this week took delivery of a live-fire, multi-training simulator. Built by Fire Training Structures (FTS), it was delivered on Monday. The 40-foot, mobile simulator system was installed this week at the Keeter Training Center. Instructors will be trained in the coming weeks. The city received \$146,000 in federal funds for the purchase, awarded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as part of its Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. The system is equipped for live fire training as well as ventilation, forcible entry, standpipe, sprinkler, confined space, firefighter survival, and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) skill stations.



Name: (real name preferred)

Remember personal info?

Morning Reading - December 24, 2011

12/24/11 397 W - + 4 - 4

Good morning Raleigh. 'Tis the morning after the night before the night before Christmas. Do you have your shopping done? Did you get your metal pole, for the Festivus feats of strength? Our hearts are also still heavy for the family and friends of Raleigh Fire Department Capt. J. Scott Nipper. Funeral arrangements are still pending. We'll pass along what's passed along, when that information is announced. Meanwhile, sundry reading on Saturday morning.

- [Charlotte firefighters rescue man from burning home](#) - WCNC story about last week's rescue at a house fire by firefighters from Engine 15, and crew members telling their story of pulling out a disabled man. He suffered smoke inhalation and is reportedly recovering well.
- [Curt Varone on EMT immunity case](#) - The Fire Law blogger offers his perspective on this week's ruling that a family can sue a former Orange County EMT who treated their son prior to his death in August 2008. The legalese, however, is Greek to me. See other local news sites for additional coverage, such as [this WRAL story](#).
- [Discussing rules and the saving of a little's girl](#) - The comment section of this Statter911 story are interesting to me, as the readers are discussing a couple aspects of a Prince George's County, MD, incident where firefighters transported a girl to the hospital in a fire engine. Good outcome in a situation with clinical, procedural, and probably legal risks.
- [Checking your spelling and other tips](#) - Firehouse.com forums thread about improving your writing, both your composition and its presentation. Use your spell-checker and watch for words already identified as possibly misspelled. Your efforts will be appreciated by those that read your thoughts online. And in the fire service, chances are good that you'll be writing stuff read by others. What advice might Mike give? My first and best tip. Say what you what to write out loud. Just speak what you want to say, just like you'd tell someone if they were standing there. Complete with pauses and stops and whatever else they'd need to understand what you're saying. Then write *that*. My second best tip? Read what you just wrote out loud. Not a mumble read, a real read. Like there's someone's there. Full voice, full volume. You'll know very quickly if what you wrote is good, not-so-good, or crap.

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'?

Troy Fire Department Circa 1976

12/24/11 86 W, 1 I - + 6 - 4

Among the features of the recent redesign of FireNews.net is a [new section of historical images](#). Below is the Troy Fire Department circa 1976. Look at those beauties! Double Macks, one CF and one B-series L series. Couple Ford C series, maybe pumper-tankers? What do you think, town and rural trucks? [Looking at their web site](#), it appears that station building shown is still being used. Be sure to see the other old photos [posted on FireNews](#).


FireNews.net photo

Correction, Blog 100. That is not a Mack B, rather it is a Mack L, like RFDs 1950 Mack. B models have the headlights built into the front fenders, rather than separate housings, like on the L model pictured.

DJ - 12/24/11 - 23:04

Ah, yes, right as ever, Dale. Thanks for catching and correcting.

Legeros - 12/24/11 - 23:44

Mike, im surprised you have a post of this being this is a nearby town to my home town of Mt. Gilead Montgomery county NC. This is a town and county FD. And yes the station is still being currently used infact it has recently been renovated

Aaron Byrd ([Email](#)) - 12/25/11 - 20:08

Aaron, you can thank FireNews editor Jeff Harkey for posting that pic. I merely noticed same, and re-posted the picture here. Love those historical images!

Legeros - 12/26/11 - 14:35

if you check out Troy FD's facebook page they have many more historical and present photos. also check out my page and the Mt. Gilead FD page i got some stuff up on there too and a few videos on youtube.

Aaron ([Email](#)) - 12/26/11 - 17:39

This is Steve Tedder and I sent in the photos. We recently celebrated our 100th anniversary and this pic was sent to us by a former member now living in California. The nearest C series Ford was owned by the County of Montgomery and was used as a rural truck 750GPM/1200Gal. It was the 7th truck bought by the County for rural firefighting. Look closely and you can see that it is lettered Mountgomery Co Fire Dept. The farthest C cab is Montgomery Co Fire Dept's 5th truck bought. 750GPM/500 gal. Any ?'s about Montgomery Co trucks ,send me an email. As

Aaron stated ,go to Troy Fire Department on Facebook and look in the album Motgomery Co fire trucks. I have pics of allCounty owned trucks except for 2.Thanks...Steve

Steve ([Email](#)) - 12/26/11 - 21:28

That is a 1951 Mack Model 45L

Steve ([Email](#)) - 12/26/11 - 21:29

Thanks Steve and Aaron. Those are neat old photos on the Facebook page!

Legeros - 12/26/11 - 21:31

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.

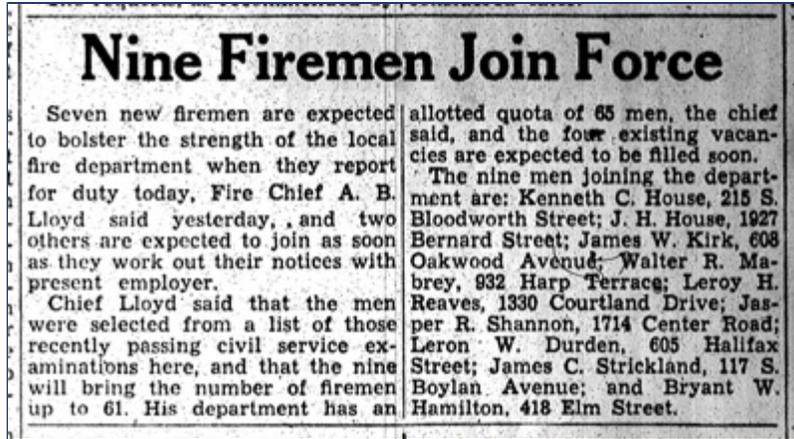
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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.

Nine Firemen Join Force, February 1, 1949

12/24/11 93 W, 1 I - + 7 - 2

From the February 1, 1949, edition of the *News & Observer*. That year, the Raleigh Fire Department was operating six engines, one aerial ladder, and one service ladder from six stations. They would answer 698 calls that calendar year in a city 10.88 square-miles in size and with 65,679 residents (1950 demographics). The budget that fiscal year was \$192,095. Notable things that happened that year included the overhaul of the interior of Fire Station 5 on Park Drive, opening a permanent Fire Station 6 on Fairview Road, and forming the Fire Prevention Bureau. Click to enlarge:



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.

Traffic Camera Captures Vehicle Fire on Beltline

12/24/11 69 W, 1 I - + 5 - 6

That's Engine 12 with Engine 10 blocking at a vehicle fire a few minutes ago on Interstate 440 at what looks like the exit ramp from outbound New Bern Avenue onto the outer loop of the Beltline. Engine 26 was also dispatched and returned to service. Isn't modern technology great? Thanks for the pan and zoom assist, whoever was at the controls. Click to enlarge:



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'?

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

Raleigh Mack to Burlington in 1979?

12/24/11 467 W, 3 I - + 13 - 2

Doing some housecleaning today. Found this document from a few years ago and apparently never blogged about. (If you haven't figured it out, Mr. Blogger uses this forum as much as a personal archive as anything else.) Did the Raleigh Fire Department give a Mack CF pumper to Burlington back in the day? Read on...

December 2006

Original question to Mike Legeros, posed by an apparatus buff: "When I was in Burlington, the firefighters told me that they had acquired a Mack CF pumper from Raleigh a number of years ago. According to legend, the Mack was bought by the Raleigh Fire Department, but never placed in service. It was either given to the Burlington Fire Department, or sold for a very reasonable price. It is a pretty standard Mack CF pumper, except that it has a non-synchronized manual transmission. One of the Burlington firefighters said that the transmission was the reason it wasn't accepted by Raleigh. And that's why they let it go, after an apparatus accident depleted Burlington's fleet. Is this a story you have heard about over the years? Were the firefighters accurate in what they related?"

Yours Truly passed the question along to Burlington Fire Department Historian Stuart Cozart, who provided this answer: "From what I understand, the below 1949 American LaFrance pumper was the truck that was wrecked. The accident in fact did wipe out, for all practical purposes, the operational fleet. The LaFrance was housed at Station 2 on Webb Ave." [Click to slightly enlarge:](#)



The reports are not complete, but I understand that the 1979 CF Mack, with the un-synchronized transmission, was purchased through Raleigh Fire Department. Not sure if it was a demo, or if Raleigh allowed Burlington to piggy back on an order. The 1979 Mack (chassis number CF685F2068) served as Engine 2 for many years. It is now in reserve as Engine 7 and is shown below in front of Station 5." [Click to slightly enlarge:](#)



Notes Raleigh Fire Department Historian Mike Legeros: Raleigh had a 1978 Mack CF on its roster, chassis CF685F2004, and a 1981 Mack CF, chassis 1M1A125C5BM002175. However, neither a 1979 nor 1980 Mack CF served Raleigh. Nor was any other engine purchased those two years. Alas, he doesn't recall if he's checked the city minutes from those years, to see if the 1979 Mack is noted in there. (He's also still suffering from that mysterious malady that's causing him to talk in the third-person some times.) Click to slightly enlarge:



Stuart ended his answer with a note that Mack, while beloved and respected, was planned to be sold at auction in 2007. Engine 5 was due to be replaced, and the current Engine 5 would be placed in reserve. Shown is what was the current Engine 2 in December 2006.

Engine 5 is now a quint, and the old E5 is E7 and is parked at station 5 as a reserve.

charlie - 12/24/11 - 20:51

A couple of things lead me to believe that this Mack CF was not from Raleigh. First, the Federal Q in the front of the cab. I believe the Raleigh deliveries of the era had an electronic siren housing, and that the Qs were a later retrofit, done when new Code 3 light bars were added. Secondly, I don't remember any Mack CFs for Raleigh having driver side full height compartments. Most Raleigh CFs were delivered with ladders on both sides. Third, note that there are ladders mounted horizontally above the hose bed, indicating high side compartments probably on the officer's side, a sure non-Raleigh spec. And lastly, I believe most Raleigh CFs were delivered with two booster reels, not one as this model has.

I think we have a fire urban legend here guys.....

harkey ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/24/11 - 23:51

Jeff, I noticed those high compartments as well. But they look like later additions to me. Or maybe the whole body was replaced at one point? Check out Lee's earlier photo of that rig: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/leewilson/5..>

But then there's this pic, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/leewilson/5..>

Hmmmmm

Legeros - 12/25/11 - 00:04

Looking at the photo, the back end looks to be from Ward. After 1975 Mack moved the CF line from Allentown to Mancugie, PA. At this time many FDs started buying a chassis and having another manufacturer add a rear body. This looks to be a Mack/Ward due to the cabinets size, shape and hardware. Being a 79, that's when Ward moved in on rear bodies. Also, this would scenerio would also apply if the truck was refirbed, as Ward and Pierce did must of that work. As for the hose reel, it most likely was deleted due to the large ladder on top.

Henshaw ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/29/11 - 15:22

Obviously E-2 was refurbished since there are before and after pictures.

Rescue Ranger - 12/30/11 - 09:38

That's what I wasn't sure about. That the earlier picture showed a Mack body, but the later picture (at the top of the post) showed a refurb.

Legeros - 12/30/11 - 09:57

Remember back when the actual Mack salesman was a factory direct person. As someone eluded to, Mack was having a problem with delivery times on vehicles so we heard the salesmen would sometimes enter an order for a unit to get in into their system under a prospective customer's name with the hopes that when it was ready, the customer would take the unit to save on delivery time but if not, it went on the market to be sold to another customer. This way the saleman got his pay sooner.

BARRY SLAGLE - 11/23/12 - 19:35

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.

UPDATED: Funeral Arrangements for Capt. Scott Nipper

12/25/11 128 W, 1 I - + 5 - 4

December 25 update, adding funeral service information that was omitted from original posting.

Arrangements have been announced for Raleigh Fire Department Captain J. Scott Nipper. Visitation followed by a funeral service, then graveside ceremony and burial will be held in Raleigh on Wednesday, December 28. Details are below. Capt. Nipper died on Wednesday, December 21, in a car accident in Granville County. His daughter Gracie remains hospitalized at Duke Medical Center. [See prior posting.](#)

Visitation

Wednesday, December 28
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Providence Baptist Church
[6339 Glenwood Avenue](#)
Raleigh, NC 27612

Funeral

2:00 p.m. at Providence Baptist Church

Graveside service and burial

Immediately following the funeral
Raleigh Memorial Park
[7501 Glenwood Avenue](#)
Raleigh, NC 27612



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'?

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

Santa on Scene!

12/24/11 186 W, 2 I - + 5 - 2

The Big C has been making the rounds at emergency scenes this week. With a presumed wink and a nod, K. Kringle first appeared on Tuesday in Dallas County, Texas. Cruising along in his Santamobile-- off-season passenger car-- he leaped into action at an accident and pulled a man from a burning truck. He further assisted with traffic control and then continued on his way. [Firegeezer has that story.](#)



WFAA-TV photo

The jolly old elf was subsequently seen assisting at a house fire on Friday in Dickson City, PA. [The Fire Critic](#) has that report including a video clip showing Big Red changing air bottles. What was he doing still in the states, and not supervising last-minute manufacturing and supply chain activities farther north? Probably just scouting landing locations for his arctic aerial vehicle.



FireCritic.com photo

Asked about expected gifts for the aforementioned bloggers-- and a few other keyboard jockeys with their own fire and EMS web sites-- S. Claus is believed to said "lumps of coal for the lot of them!"

Merry Christmas.

Researching an Early Fire in Raleigh

12/26/11 395 W - + 6 - 3

One of the earliest recorded fires in the city's history occurred in the spring of 1824. Here's what's included in [my Raleigh Fire Department history timelines](#), which are based on several years of research and from a variety of sources:

Fire strikes city. Press reports note 'no sufficient supply could be obtained, the water works having been suffered to go out of repair and remain so.' (Spring? 1824)

The cited source is *Wake: Capital County of North Carolina - Volume 1, Prehistory Through Centennial* Elizabeth Reid Murray, Capital County Publishing, 1983. Here's the entirety of what Ms. Murray wrote about the fire:

At another fire a year later [in 1824] it was learned that "no sufficient supply of water could be obtained, the water works having been suffered to go out of repair and remain so." Some black men and boys procured tubs of water to fight the blaze and distinguished themselves by their extraordinary exertions. The city commissioners afterward appointed a committee "to designate such Negroes as particularly signalized themselves by their activity in putting a stop to the fire," and another committee to take steps toward improving the water supply.

Ms. Murray's cited source for her information is the weekly *Raleigh Register* of February 24 and March 7, 1824. Thus my date of spring 1824 as the possible date for the fire.

Last week, an e-mail was received from a person researching their family's history. Looking at a letter in the Joel King Papers Collection at the Duke University Library, he cited correspondence he found between his great-great-great uncle, Benjamin S. King of Raleigh [and a Clerk of Wake County for a period of time], to his brother Joel King in Louisburg on February 23, 1824.

The words are incomplete, but it seems that he is describing a fire that started in a blacksmith "yesterday morning" and burned down three or four houses and "had it not been for a near miracle of providential interference the principal part of the Town might have been consumed by the devouring element."

That places the date of the fire as February 22, 1824. Next step should be a visit to Olivia Raney Local History Library, to see if the aforementioned *Register* articles are available on microfilm. Then read said articles. Then update timeline. Thanks to Johnny King for sending. History never sleeps.

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.

House Fire on Huntingdon Drive

12/26/11 163 W, 1 I - + 9 - 2

Here's a photo [posted by WRAL](#) of this morning's house fire at [5125 Huntingdon Drive](#) in southwest Raleigh. The call was dispatched at 5:45 a.m. Engine 8 arrived at a two-story, brick, single-family dwelling with 2,250 square-feet. Built 1967. Fire was showing from the roof. Crews entered after a water supply was established. Three lines were brought inside, searches were started, and ceilings were pulled as fire was found extending into the attic. All firefighters inside the structure was brought outside at the 20 minute mark, for a personal accountability report and some exterior operations that included using Ladder 7. The fire was reported controlled at 6:34 a.m. Crews and investigated remained on the scene into the morning. Some sections of the second floor collapsed onto the first. The cause is still under investigation. Twelve people were displaced. No occupants were injured, but one firefighter was transported with minor burns to the legs. Sources: [WRAL story](#), RFD media release, radio traffic.



WRAL 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

Bonus Room Burns on Boxing Day

12/26/11 101 W, 1 I - + 6 - 4

Our friends in the Durham Fire Department have shared this photo of a garage fire they fought this morning. "A" shift companies responded to [4810 Southern Drive](#) and found a bonus room over a garage fully involved and then some. Engine 4 was first on scene and quickly knocked down the flames. No injuries. Cause determined as space heater. Heat damage to adjacent dwelling. Crews were on scene for 90 minutes. The run card: E4, E16, E12, E6, L12, S4, B3, B1, MS1, SO1, M61. Thanks for sending, Sean! Click to enlarge:



Sean Boone photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Vintage Training Film, San Diego Fire Department

12/26/11 119 W - + 5 - 2

From a reader, here's a silent training film from the San Diego Fire Department posted [earlier this year to YouTube](#). Looks like the roaring twenties, maybe early in the decade? Eleven minutes in length and with some splendid footage. Pompier ladders get demonstrated, as does a spring-loaded aerial ladder. They show some drafting, a fireboat in action, and the fire alarm system. Then there's a lengthy commercial structure fire sequence, complete with two firefighters pushing an automobile away from a hydrant! Love the police assistance as well, with a motorcycle officer ticketing for failure to yield. Maybe a better version-- with fewer jumping frames-- will surface some time. Thanks Matt!

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.

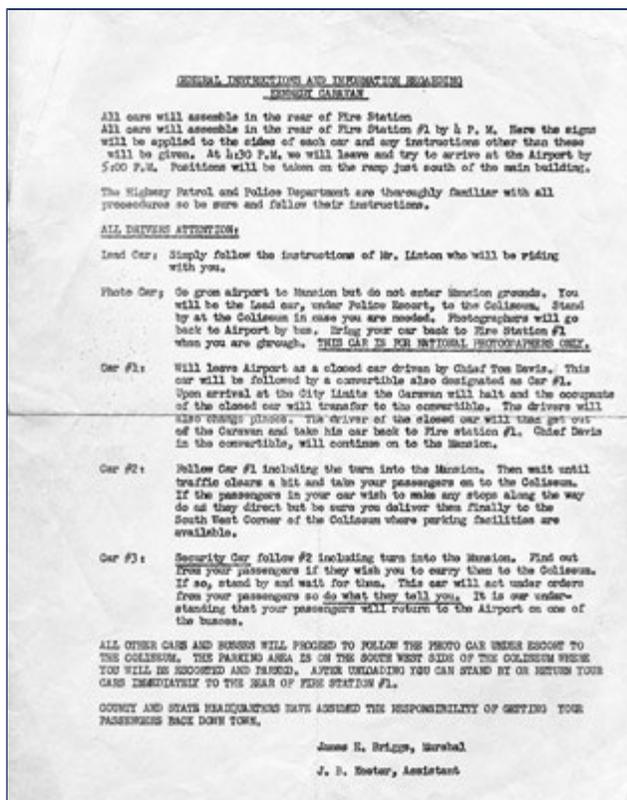
To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

General Instructions and Information Regarding Kennedy Caravan

12/27/11 90 W, 1 I - + 8 - 6

Found this this morning while organizing some files. This is a set of instructions signed by Raleigh Fire Chief Jack Keeter, for the purpose of directing vehicles participating in a caravan for either John F. Kennedy or Robert Kennedy. Chief Keeter's role is listed as Assistant Marshal. Perhaps there was a parade associated with this event? Looks like they staged at Fire Station #1, then headed to the airport, then the Governor's Mansion, and then to Reynolds Coliseum. Readers can offer further interpretations.



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

Angier Suffers \$150,000 Blaze, November 20, 1924

12/27/11 418 W - + 7 - 4

News & Observer, Friday morning, November 21, 1924

ANGIER SUFFERS \$150,000 BLAZE

Arriva of Fuquay Springs Flivver Saved The Business Section

Angier, Nov. 20 - Fire originating in a lot of rugs hanging against a wall through which a chimney had been built, destroyed four of the principal business houses here today, entailing a loss estimated at \$150,000, and until the timely arrival of the Fuquay Springs fire flivver¹, threatened to destroy the entire business section of the town.

Heroic work by the Fuquay department under the command of Capt. Jeter Jones, checked the flames and a few minutes later the company from Dunn arrived in a cloud of dusty. The Raleigh department arrived a few minutes later and added its weight to the fire fighters, and the block was saved. The Raleigh covered the 27 miles of rough roads in 55 minutes.

Buildings destroyed included the Earpe cafe, Wilson and Co., the largest general merchandise store in the town, and the D. D. Overby store. The Overby Drug Co., next door to the Wilson store, was practically ruined when the walls of the three story buildings adjacent collapsed upon it. The losses are understood to be partially covered by insurance.

The fire had its beginnings in a store room above an apartment on the second floor, occupied by A. C. Barefoot and family. Hanging against the wall directly against the chimney from the apartment were the rugs. A loose brick, a hearty fire in the heater beneath, with the rugs hanging against the wall did the rest. The fire was discovered early, but the absence of any equipment for fighting it let it go almost unhindered.

Much of the contents of the stores were removed to the streets where they were overrun by the throngs that gathered from far and wide, attracted hither by the glare in the sky. Confusion was of the sort that is usually described as indescribable. Half dozen coffins hastily snatched from the burning were piled about, and standing guard over them an old fashioned wooden horst upon which country merchants display buggy harnesses.

For two blocks along the railroad all sorts of merchandise is scattered. The town authorities pressed half dozen cities into service as constables and placed them on guard against looting which had begun before the fire was checked. Some of the merchandise removed was caught under the collapsing walls of the building when they fell into the streets. No one was injured.

¹Flivver is a slang expression for a Ford Model T.

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Buildings Used to be Here

12/28/11 43 W, 3 I - + 10 - 4

Three views from South Wilmington Street of where Walnut Terrace once stood. [See pre-demolition explorations](#) of the 300-unit public housing facility, built in 1959 and recently removed. New buildings forthcoming. Click **once or twice** to enlarge:



Presenting... The New Medic 93

12/29/11 46 W, 1 I - + 10 - 11

And officially the coolest looking emergency vehicle in Raleigh or Wake County. If you're fond of European-styled "fast cars," that is. We'll get details later. And maybe a better photo or two, than this reader-submitted shot. Click to enlarge:



I think it looks great-and probably more user friendly than some of the larger units used. It looks a little front heavy with the push bar tho!!
Not a knock-still like it!!

Goose - 12/29/11 - 10:01

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.

Funeral for Capt. Scott Nipper

12/29/11 93 W - + 5 - 4

Raleigh Fire Department Capt. J. Scott Nipper was buried yesterday at Raleigh Memorial Park on Glenwood Avenue. This followed a funeral service (and prior visitation) at Providence Baptist Church on Glenwood Avenue. About 400 people attended the service, which was filmed for a number of news outlets. Photographers Lee Wilson and Mike Legeros also attended. Below are links to news stories and photos of this somber event. See also [this prior posting](#) and [this prior posting](#).

- [WRAL](#)
- [WTVD](#)
- [News 14](#)
- [News & Observer](#)
- [Lee Wilson photos](#)
- [Mike Legeros photos](#)

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.

The Old Six Forks Fire Station

12/29/11 229 W, 1 I - + 8 - 4

While we await details and photos of today's vehicle and structure fire at EMS station on Six Forks Road, let's look back at the building's early history. It was constructed for the Six Forks Fire Department, and was their third location. Their first two fire stations-- when they were named Six Forks Road FD-- were located in the present 4300 and 4400 blocks of Six Forks Road. [Read some of that history.](#)

In 1962, the fire department moved maybe a mile north to 5305 Six Forks Road. They relocated their 7.5 HP siren farther up the road, on Six Forks Road near Northclift Drive. They had three trucks: a 1956 Ford/American/Barton pumper, a 1961 International pumper, and a military surplus 1500-gallon tank. The three-bay building served until 1974, when SSFD relocated to 1431 Lynn Road. Read a *Northside News* story about them from 1971: [part one](#) and [part two](#).

Two years later, Wake County EMS was organized. They operated four ambulances: EMS 1 and EMS 4 downtown, EMS 2 outside Mayview Convalescent Center on Whitaker Mill Road, and EMS 3 at the old Six Forks fire station. One of the three bays was converted to living quarters. The parking lot might've been paved at this time as well. Readers can add to the history in more recent decades. Below is an image from 1971 of the old fire station. Click to enlarge:



Creative reuse of the Pepsi sign!

Picker - 12/29/11 - 21:18

Correct me if I am wrong Charlie, but I think that's a legit decoration. Pepsi-sponsored sign, much as might be seen at service stations or other places? Of course, it could just as easily be a re-purposed one!

Grinner (Legeros) - 12/29/11 - 21:20

A lot of fire stations around NC had Pepsi and Coke signs on the station and as district signs. Pepsi signs around these aprts for district boundaries were used several including Stony Hill, Six Forks, Swift Creek, Fairview, Fairgrounds, Morrisville, Garner Rescue, New Hope, and Falls. I think I even saw an Alert (Knightdale) district sign with the Pepsi logo once, over around Buffalo and Old Milburnie Roads. Pepsi signs on the station included Morrisville, Fairgrounds, and Six Forks. Swift Creek also had an illuminated Coke sign out front on a pole. Bay Leaf had Coke district signs. Mike may have pictures of some of the district signs in his archives.

NC Farm Bureau Insurance also mad a number of district signs for Wake County back in the late 70s- early 80s.

DJ - 12/30/11 - 09:29

DJ is correct, they were very popular signs! The bigger picture is that during this time period, funding was essentially non-existent with the exception of what the department's raised themselves. Many firefighters and early rescue squad personnel stood in the street with buckets collecting money. Much of the apparatus was former military or passed down from other departments. The bottom line is, these signs were cheap, as many departments couldn't afford big fancy signs.

Jason T ([Email](#)) - 12/30/11 - 13:10

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.

CRC Emergency Command

12/29/11 114 W, 1 I - + 9 - 6

Here's the coolest non-emergency emergency vehicle that we've seen of late: Cary Restoration Company's Emergency Command unit, parked at the scene of today's ambulance slash structure fire on Six Forks Road. More on that incident a bit later. One of five or six on scene when Lee Wilson was passing by, about 5:00 p.m. You think your truck's has seasonal bling? Check out the double wreath action on the grill. Love the striping along the bottom edge, also. And gets a person a thinking about graphics. Imagine the possibles for a certain pair of photographers and their personal vehicles! *EMERGENCY PHOTO -Twenty-Four Hour Service - no riders.* Click to enlarge:



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'?

Yesterday's EMS Station Fire

12/30/11 313 W, 3 I - + 9 - 8

The season's least-expected structure fire shut down Six Forks Road early Thursday's afternoon, when EMS 3 caught fire at its station at [5305 Six Forks Road](#). The paramedic ambulance had just returned from a call a couple minutes earlier. The two Wake County EMS members found their ambulance in flames after hearing noises coming from the apparatus bay. They evacuated the building safely.

By the time Engine 9 arrived, the engine compartment was fully-involved and the bay ceiling was also burning. The engine caught its own hydrant across the street. Engine 4 was second due, and assisted with the water supply. Within minutes, four engines, two ladders, and Battalion 1 were on scene. Other EMS resources and EMS command staff were quickly on scene as well. The fire was quickly contained, though extensive overhaul was required on the roof. [See scene photos from Mike Legeros](#).

The call was dispatched at 12:42 p.m. and controlled at 12:58 p.m. Six Forks Road was closed in both directions for over an hour. Fire investigators determined the origin of the fire as the engine compartment of the ambulance, caused by unspecified mechanical problem. EMS personnel removed computers, supplies, and other materials from the living area of the station. The facility is closed, though EMS 3 was soon back in service with a spare unit. Both it and the second unit assigned to the station have been relocated to alternate locations.

The loss of the 2010 Chevrolet McCoy-Miller ambulance and its contents are estimated at over \$200,000. The damage to the structure has not been estimated yet. The 1962 building formerly served as the Six Forks Fire Department fire station. [Read that history](#). It was opened as an EMS station in 1976. The structure has already been secured and sealed, until further repairs are made.





Glad that didn't happen while the crew was sleeping! Glad all are ok. Bet E9 could see it when they left the firehouse

AB - 12/30/11 - 12:14

EMS 3, Welcome to BLFD Station 3. – Phill

Phil Farrell ([Email](#)) - 12/31/11 - 18:31

Had a similar situation like this a couple years ago involving a GMC 5500 Medium Duty Fire Truck. We were fortunate enough to catch ours before the Station was affected. Kussmaul system was wired wrong at the manufacturer and caused the entire electrical system and wiring harness to melt and go up in flames....

Chris - 12/31/11 - 19:11

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

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Recruit Academy 37 Starts in Raleigh

12/30/11 175 W, 1 I - + 11 - 4

The newest members of the Raleigh Fire Department reported for duty this morning at the Keeter Training Center for the start of Recruit Academy 37. Twenty-nine future firefighters will spend 28 weeks receiving certifications as Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), North Carolina Fire Fighter Level I and II, and North Carolina Hazardous Materials Operations. They'll also receive training on technical rescue, hazardous materials operations, fireground procedures, high-rise operations, rapid intervention teams (RIT), accountability systems, safety companies, engine and ladder company operations, and firefighter safety and survival.

EMT classes will comprise the first eight weeks of their instruction. They'll also receive physical fitness training that will continue through the duration of the academy. By the end of their training, the recruits will participate in live fire burns at the Wake County Fire Training Center and Central Carolina Community College in Sanford. They'll also attend firefighter survival training at Gaston Community College in Gastonia.

Recruit Academy 37 graduates on July 12, 2012. See also [this press release](#). Congratulations and good luck!



Good luck Jonathan Seagroves!

BLVFD - 12/30/11 - 14:19

Good luck Lewis and Julio! Y'all are gonna do big things!

H2Os - 12/30/11 - 16:12

so when this class graduates, does this mean that Ladder 9 goes into service or are these new fire fighters going to fill vacancies due to retirements.

charlie - 12/30/11 - 19:30

Vacancies for retirements....no Ladder 9. After they graduate, I think it will only increase our total by 2.

Silver - 12/30/11 - 19:55

Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - Propane Tanker Overturns < Recruit Academy 37 St... > Mystery Place in Holly Springs

Propane Tanker Overturns in Holly Springs

12/30/11 107 W, 1 I - + 12 - 8

[WTVB has posted aerial photos](#) (albeit with slightly distorted aspect ratios) of this afternoon's haz-mat incident in Holly Springs on Highway 55 at Holly Springs Road. A tractor-drawn propane tank jackknifed, with fuel leaking from the driver's side saddle tank. The incident was dispatched as a vehicle fire involving hazardous materials. High pucker factor, there! Holly Springs Fire Department was on scene (E1, E2, E3, R1, B1, etc.), along with Wake County Fire Services and a haz-mat unit from the Raleigh Fire Department. Coverage in Holly Springs was provided by Apex and Fairview (?) units. Readers can add additional details.



WTVB photo

Anyone know what was on fire off of 55 south today(12/31) in Holly Springs?

Martinez - 12/31/11 - 21:14

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'?