Legeros Fire Blog Archives - 2012 Postings Compiled

July 2021

Greetings!

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

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

Mystery Place

01/01/12 41 W, 1 I - + 7 - 8

Happy New Year. Here's a brain teaser to help you shake off sleep or any other induced in the prior twelve hours. Brick and metal. Beams and walls. Where's this place?

Cameron Village underground?
Rescue Ranger - 01/02/12 - 13:25

Negative, not there…
Legeros - 01/03/12 - 21:40

Just adding a comment so I'll get emailed when it's solved. I have no idea, but am curious…
rfburns - 01/05/12 - 11:45

Did you have to chase off hobos or carry a gun to get the picture?
Zack A - 01/05/12 - 19:38

The space was unoccupied at the time. The picture was taken during the day. The sound of a train whistle was a point of concern, however.
Legeros - 01/05/12 - 21:16

I'm thinking it's somewhere along the tracks that run parallel with Hillsborough and Western. I've never been to it, but is it the "freedom of speech tunnel" by NCSU?
Silver - 01/05/12 - 22:57

Walkway under the Boylan St bridge?
Marcus (Email) - 01/05/12 - 23:44

No, it's not the Free Expression Tunnel, nor any other space at NCSU.

It's more than a stone's thrown from the Boylan Street bridge, but not that much farther.
Legeros - 01/06/12 - 07:54

Morgan Street bridge???
Silver - 01/06/12 - 12:27

Have a Coke.
Legeros - 01/06/12 - 12:32

Is it a tunnel that goes under Wimington Street near the old Coca-Cola plant
T.R. (Email) - 01/06/12 - 23:55

Not a tunnel, period. Though the prospect of one under Wilmington Street is intriguing.

That could be a neat project, charting the city's underground locales. Wonder if someone's already done that?
Legeros - 01/07/12 - 08:13

How about a basement somewhere? Maybe the building that's going to be the new train station?
DownLow - 01/07/12 - 12:08

You're getting warmer, doc.
Legeros - 01/07/12 - 12:10

Someplace in the Warehouse District… Gotta be!
DownLow - 01/07/12 - 12:39

Underneath the Boylan Brewpub?
Bob P. - 01/07/12 - 14:29

Neither pub nor bridge, nor tunnel you see,
But maybe a warehouse, suggested, could be.

Have a Coke.
Legeros - 01/07/12 - 15:36

I was close (I was viewing aerial maps of West St, Hargett St, and the surrounding area), but I never would have figured it out on my own without Mike giving that last clue.

http://binged.it/ABrkMa
and
http://goodnightraleigh.com/2011/03/a-gh..
rfburns - 01/07/12 - 19:41

Old bottling plant/warehouse on west side of downtown!
DownLow - 01/07/12 - 19:46

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

Remember personal info?
○ Yes
◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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The Year in Review

01/01/12 529 W, 1 I - + 6 - 5

Legeros Fire Photography

Twelve months of incidents and events as seen through the lens of Mike Legeros. He's the one in the Hawaiian shirt. Building fires, vehicle fires, hose streams, aerial streams, privates, paramedics, chief officers, incident commanders, promotional ceremonies, retirement lunches, MVAs, MCIs, USAR, haz-mat, trees down, buildings down, the Raleigh tornado, Wake County, Johnston County, downtown, down east, graduations, celebrations, the state EOC, the state firemen's convention, parades, public education, axes, helmets, ambulances, radios, pulling hose, loading hose, smiles, tears, and whole lot of shutter clicks.

Featured agencies include but are not limited to Raleigh FD, Raleigh PD, Wake County EMS, Durham FD, Bay Leaf FD, Warrenton FD, Warrenton PD, Soul City FD, Morehead City FD, Newport FD, Fuquay-Varina FD, Rolesville FD, Wake County EM, Six Forks EMS, Wake County FF Association, NC Task Force 8, Durham Highway FD, Cary FD, Western Wake FD, Stony Hill FD, Apex FD, Raleigh FD Historical Society, Wake-New Hope FD, NC Forest Service, Wake Forest FD, Cary EMS, Charlotte FD, Morrisville FD, Garner FD, Raleigh-Durham Airport ES, Selma FD, Selma EMS, Fairview FD, and the Dragon Slayers.

Thanks for everyone's support and assistance. **See the photos**. See prior years on Mike's photo archive page or at www.flickr.com/legeros. (See also prior posting about picking these photos.)

Legeros Fire Blog

Renamed this year from the longer Raleigh/Wake Firefighting Blog. Total of 454,590 page views and 67,988 absolutely unique visitors, says Google Analytics. Total of 1022 topic postings, if my math is correct. Total of X posted comments, where X equals some number not yet computed. Might get around to that.

The process of posting comments was also updated. Reader remarks are now moderated. This change was effected a couple months ago. The reason for the change was my diminished tolerance for the negativity that was regrettably regularly recurring with operational questions and discussions about specific incidents. Or, short version: quarterbacking was getting out of hand.

Trends, thoughts, observations, observations on observations? Let me think about that. My favorite question for the Firegeezers and Dave Statter every year in Baltimore is "what have you learned since last year?" Will work on a response to that to myself. Meanwhile, here are some stats.

The top ten threads by unique page views:

1. This Afternoon's Two Alarms / Avent Ferry Road - 1,250

2. Asheville Firefighter Killed, Another Critically Injured (Updated) - 1,135
3. Build Your Own Fire Truck - 804
4. Today's House Fire in Wake Forest - 934
5. Two Raleigh Firefighters Struck on I-40 - 874
6. Wake Forest Receives New Ladder - 839
7. This Afternoon's House Fire / Basil Drive - 658
8. astern Wake Chimney Fire - 723
9. Reviewing the Storm Response - Unit Numbering - 774
10. Quick Poll: Who Wears Shorts - 746

The top ten threads by reader comments:

1. This Afternoon's House Fire / Basil Drive - 45
2. This Afternoon's Two Alarms / Avent Ferry Road - 41
3. Wake Forest Receives New Ladder - 40
4. Quick Poll: Who Wears Shorts? - 39
5. Reviewing the Storm Response - Unit Numbering - 38
6. Falls Fire Department Fundraiser... - 36
7. Today's House Fire in Wake Forest - 32
8. This Afternoon's House Fire in Wake Forest - 31
9. This Morning's Two Alarms / Edwards Mill Road - 31
10. Eastern Wake Chimney Fire - 30

I may be a tad biased, but I'll say it anyway. Thank you for all of the amazing work, photos, and contributions that you give to Raleigh's bravest. I am in awe, every single day, of your passion and love for the fire service.
Mrs. Blogger - 01/01/12 - 12:49

Agreed Kudos and THANK YOU for what you do for the fire service in the greater Triangle area!
shevais - 01/01/12 - 13:40

Thanks Sweetie, thanks Shev. Now onto the new year, and we'll see what excitement a "twelve year" brings.
Legeros - 01/01/12 - 13:43

Yes Thank you for all the work that you do Mike and lets not forget Lee….. With the work you do photographing and blogging it has kept me in the loop with the happenings in Raleigh… Thanks again for your fine work..
Jim - 01/01/12 - 16:45

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Remember personal info?
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No

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Jonesville Fire Department Closing

01/01/12 259 W, 1 I - + 10 - 3

FireNews.net is reporting on this Elkin *Tribune* story about the closing of the Jonesville Fire Department in Yadkin County. That's Station 17 in the county nomincalture. The Arlington Fire Department has been contracted by the town to provide fire protection, beginning today, January 1. Some of their equipment and apparatus will be transferred as a consideration of the contract.

The department has six vehicles, including a 2010 E-One Typhoon pumper delivered in January of last year. That's Engine 1701 and it will likely be sold. Engine 1704 will be given to AFD, which appears from their web site to be a 2000 Volvo/KME pumper. Another vehicle has been "surplused." Three remaining vehicles will be retained by the town, for other municipal use.

Response times shouldn't be affected, as the Arlington fire station is located in the town (321 S. Main Street), and but a couple blocks away from the Jonesville fire station (111 S. Bridge Street). Jonesville firefighters will be encouraged to join AFD, or another fire department.

The backstory involves a failed inspection in November by the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and a subsequent decision by town officials to close the fire department. Read the above article for more details.

Jonesville is the oldest town in Yadkin County. The 2000 population was 1,464, though it grew by nearly 800 residents when it merged with neighboring Arlington. The town has 1.9 square miles. The Jonesville Fire Department was established in 1957 and its first apparatus was delivered in 1958. Read more history from the Jonesville FD web site.

Jonesville Fire Department photo

Interesting read. I think that as the economy goes forward, and if it does not get any better, things like this will happen more. Maybe not on a grand scale, unless the economy gets worse, but this will start to happen. No matter the reasons given, I would venture that the idea of saving the money that the town probably invests in the department is a big consideration. Just my $0.02/

DJ - 01/01/12 - 12:39

Jonesville's E-One pumper is now for sale, http://www.jonesvillenc.gov/firetruck.ht..

Legeros - 02/16/12 - 19:45

Mike, Yadkin County, being not too far over the state line we get some news from the area. I have read various reports from different news sources about the closing of Jonesville Fire Dept. The REAL Basis for the closing stems from politics. Last elections brought in a new mayor who had a long running beef with the officers of Jonesville. Reportedly, He appointed cronies to the Departments Board to which resulted in the resignations of key department personnal, and the removal of others, then they say once service was affected, and membership was dowm so low emergencies could not be handled properly he requested the review by the State Fire Marshals Office. The stars aligned and the pieces fell in place and he got his wish and the Department was shut down, and Arlington was contracted. This is a sad example of what small town politics especially in back woods mountain areas can result in. Now that the Equipment is being sold, I guess there will be no return for

Jonesville F.D. after the next election. So sad, but not unheard of up here.
Galax,Va - 02/16/12 - 21:30

Very interesting. Let me ask a meta-question. Sounds like the sources for your perspectives are published accounts and reports from that region. Would you assign a "factual index" of 100 percent to your comments, or is there any supposition (yours or from news writers) in there? As a blog operator— and budding media studies student— I am always curious and sometimes careful about drawing distinctions between facts and opinions, confirmations and speculations. How we talk, if you will, as well as what we talk about.
Legeros - 02/16/12 - 22:04

Mike, I started following the story I believe in the Elkin Tribune. and one of the Surry County Papers also picked up on it.. Then I think it was the ripple (Yes thats the real name of the newspaper) Yadkin County Ripple, did a story featuring the Lt. over the Rescue side of the Jonesville Dept. She had just submitted her letter of resignation and in the interview she listed the events that had occurred up until her resignation. It was also noted her husband who was the Chief over both the Fire and Rescue had resigned several months earlier. She tried to stick it out and remain a member but was unable to. Shortly thereafter Elkin, Surry, and Yadkin Papers reported on the Fire Marshals inspection, and then the closing of Jonesville, and the contract with Arlington. So most of my information was from News articles. My opinion was prudy much limited to the last statement about Jonesville not returning. In the interview with the Lt. I'm purdy sure one of the issues members had with the Mayors appointees, was that he had appointed several with no fire experance, and i'm thinking maybe an asst.chief was appointed, and it was someone who had been out of the fire service for many years and held no certifications what so ever. So even though im operating off memory, i'm gonna say my factual index is up there purdy high. and is scaring 95-98 % to death.
Galax,Va - 02/16/12 - 22:58

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Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Hide email: ☐ Yes, hide my email address.

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

International PayStar Crash Truck at MSP, 1977

01/01/12 281 W, 4 I - + 9 - 6

Time for a trip down memory lane. Remember our mystery crash truck posting from a few months ago? Here's the answer, a 1977? International PayStar F5070 / King Fisher airport crash truck that served Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Carried 4,500 gallons of water and 500 gallons of foam. Powered by twin 318-HP V8 diesel engines, one for the chassis and one for the pump. Manual turret on top with a reach of 210 feet. Cost $200,000, weighed 83,000+ pounds. Front axle was rated at 18,000 pounds; rear tandem rated at 65,000 pounds. Single-speed transfer case. Five-speed automatic transmission. Accelerates on concrete from zero to 50 MPH in less than 60 seconds. Designated Rescue 9.

Shown in the Volume 47, No. 3, 1977 issue of *International Trail* magazine. Scanned from photo copies, provided by our friends as the airport fire department. The truck was one of the first crash trucks encountered by a young fire buff who would later live in North Carolina. Was twelve when this truck was delivered. By that time, I was infamous for making long-distance phone calls to apparatus manufacturers, to request literature that they gladly provided. (Also called the Los Angeles City Fire Department one time and received a nifty educational/promotional booklet.) My parents soon informed of this thing called "phone charges."

As for the pictured truck, it was a deep, dark yellow and impossibly tall. Had a wide attachment for the rear, as memory serves, for applying foam on a runway. Don't readily recall the rest of the airport's fleet. Maybe Walter trucks. Good excuse for research, next time we travel to the Twin Cities. The past becomes ever-sweeter as it fades ever faster. Click **once or twice** to enlarge:

Morning Reading - January 2, 2011

01/02/12 375 W - + 10 - 3

Good morning Raleigh. Another holiday today for many. And with cooler temperatures than the balmy conditions we enjoyed last week. Couple things to read this morning. Have nothing else to say.

- South Carolina firefighter injured while responding to fire - WSOC-TV story about an accident on Saturday afternoon that injured a firefighter responding to a mobile home fire in Cheraw, SC. His truck rolled over. Four others in a second vehicle were also transported. Injuries reportedly not serious.

- Rocky Mount house fire photos - Reader-submitted *Rocky Mount Telegram* slideshow of photos from Bob Bartosz, from a Sunday afternoon house fire on Eastern Avenue. Was one of two workers that day. Read this related story.

- Charlotte firefighter alerts family to house fire - WCNC-TV story about a house fire on Sunday morning on Mallard Creek Road. Firefighter Henry Calle was headed head home about 7:00 a.m. when he saw smoke pouring from the roof of a residence. He called 911, then knocked on the door to alert the family. The occupants were asleep and didn't know that a fire was burning in their attic.

- Raleigh firefighter lived a life with few regrets - *News & Observer* story from last week and a nice recap of Wednesday's funeral for Raleigh Fire Department Capt. Scott Nipper. He was remembered by his family and fellow firefighters at Providence Baptist Church. See Lee's photos and see Mike's photos from that day. A scholarship fund is being established for his children at the State Employee's Credit Union. More information on that as available.

- Desperate to save sons, Raleigh mother leapt from burning apartment - WRAL story and a good dramatic headline about the December 14 apartment fire on Raleigh Boulevard. Firefighters her one- and five year-old sons from an upstairs bedroom. They're still at the Jaycee Burn Center and expected to recovery fully. Read an earlier posting about that incident.

- Reviewing the year - Legeros Fire Blog posting from yesterday with a summary of my incident and event photos from 2011, and a summary of what happened in Blog Land over the last twelve months. Some stats are in there, a couple lists of most-read and most-commented postings.

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Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Fanbulance

01/02/12 41 W, 1 I - + 9 - 5

From a reader, this curious conversion has been seen in Raleigh. For extra credit, can you place the location that's pictured? 'Taint Hillsborough Street across from the library, which was my first thought. Thanks Scott! Click to slightly enlarge:

Glenwood Avenue, across from Bada Bing pizza
BM - 01/02/12 - 20:43

This is unit if the former ambulance from Coopers Fire-Rescue Squad Inc. out of nash county and was sold due to high maintenance cost and age. But the current owner has put a good bit of money into it to get it in better running order and now drives it to all home games for the redskins.
st - 01/03/12 - 14:34

And not to be confused with the Jambulance, which is a mobile deejay operation out of Durham. Or was, as I haven't seen that one in a year or more.
Legeros - 01/03/12 - 21:18

Mike, you might be able to see the Jambulance in the parking lot if you take a ride by Durham Highway. Unless they have moved it
Marcus - 01/04/12 - 09:49

Thanks Marcus. I will start working on the Legbulance concept. There's a sign shop on Pleasant Valley Road that can create some compelling floral graphics…
Legeros - 01/04/12 - 10:25

This rig is tricked out by plumber Don. He drives to Washington for home games but joins the Raleigh Redskins crew at Tobacco Road
Linda - 08/30/12 - 01:57

Name: (real name preferred)

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Web Site: (optional)

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- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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

Post Comment Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Notify: ☐ Yes, send me email when someone replies.

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

Wilmington Fire Station 2

01/03/12 58 W, 1 I - + 10 - 6

Reporting from the road. Here's Wilmington Fire Station 2 under construction at Empie Park. Located at 3403 Park Avenue, the new station replaces a 1965 structure that was demolished last year. The prior building had a host of problems, and had been closed since October 2010. Read prior blog postings from July 30, 2011, July 10, 2011, and April 14, 2010. Click to enlarge:

Name: (real name preferred)

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Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Hide email: ☐ Yes, hide my email address.

Panther Spotted in South Carolina

01/04/12 80 W, 1 I - + 6 - 3

Thanks to the friendly folks at the Myrtle Beach airport fire station, here's a posted photo of a rare (for the Carolinas) Rosenbauer Panther airport crash truck. ~~Believe it was delivered in 2011~~. Model year is 2009, delivered in April 2009. It's a Panther 1500 with a 1,850 GPM pump, 1,500 gallon water tank, and 210 gallon foam cell. Detroit diesel engine, 665 HP. Roof and bumper turrets. 6000 watt light tower. Read full specs. More photos to be posted. Click to enlarge.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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- No

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Air Horn Atop Laurinburg Former Fire Station

01/04/12 76 W, 1 I - + 9 - 6

Here's what looks like a well-weathered Gamewell diaphone air horn, found and photographed on a pole beside the town's former fire station in the 400 block of Farley Street. Pics of the building to be posting. Perhaps readers can provide more building information. Air horns were an alternate alerting device back in the day, instead of bells or sirens. Wake Forest used one, for example. Click to enlarge:

Bay Leaf also had one, but it was in addition to their siren.
DJ - 01/04/12 - 19:43

So did New Hope
AB - 01/04/12 - 21:19

So did Falls. Just like Bayleaf, the air horns were an addition to the siren.
Marcus - 01/05/12 - 08:55

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

Remember personal info?
○ Yes
◉ No

Comment: / Textile

Raleigh Police Monitoring Guide

01/04/12 123 W, 1 I - + 6 - 6

The fine folks at RadioReference.com and the particular person of Marshall Sherard have created a Raleigh Police Monitoring Guide. This is a web page/wiki page that's a great starting point for armchair (or mobile) listeners. (Bad guys who are reading can stop now. This won't interest you.) Raleigh police call signs are explained, as well as the different sets of talkgroups. For a more general overview of public safety radio monitoring in Raleigh and Wake County, see this second web page. Thanks to Marshall for passing along, for making the thing. Next question, can you partner with the *The Slammer* to add some beauty shots to the site?!? Happy listening.,,

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about Radioreference for Wake County…Don't waste your money on trying to monitor fire/ems channels, they are overrun with police traffic and you never hear a thing.

AB - 01/04/12 - 21:21

Whatever happened to the Raleigh/Wake Fire feed on that site?

Eric - 01/04/12 - 21:40

Thanks for the kudos Mike. As far as online feeds: I plan to help get 2 more feeds online in the next month. 1st up is a loooong overdue Durham FD online feed with a scanner provided by Jeff Harkey powering it. I am embarrassed to say that this has been in the works too long and needs to be up and running. 2nd is a dedicated Raleigh/Wake FD only feed with one of my scanners powering it. I am open to discussion on what talkgroups/channels need to be included in the Ral/Wake feed. My main goal is to try to prevent what AB complains about above: too many talkgroups in the rotation and you miss the important radio traffic. I am thinking Alert/Dispatch, PS TAC, OPS, and Mutual Aid only unless someone has better idea.

I will also putting together other RR.com Wiki pages based on a variety of NC based public safety monitoring topics. I am open to what others would consider informative Wiki articles or would use as a reference.

I can be reached at KE4ZNR-at-radioreference.com and Happy Monitoring!

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR (Email) (Web Site) - 01/05/12 - 11:37

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Caption This Historical Photo

01/04/12 91 W, 1 I - + 6 - 5

If the open-cab Crown pumper doesn't already give it away, this stunning image comes from Southern California Photographer Boris Yaro snapped the shot of a movie studio fire. 'Twas September 8, 1974, when a set of fake brownstones burned at Burbank Studios. Three soundstages and four movie sets were destroyed. The picture (including a larger version) and incident are recounted on this *Los Angeles Times* blog post. And which was found and shared by the Carolinas Fire Page mailing list. Thanks Jeff.

Boris Yaro/Los Angeles Times photo

Name: (real name preferred)

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Granville Firefighter Saves Brothers From Burning House

01/05/12 184 W, 1 I - + 5 - 5

That's the headline from yesterday's WRAL story about an off-duty rescue (or should we call it a pre-arrival rescue?) in Granville County. Lt. Chris Brodgen of the Cornith Volunteer Fire Department was headed to work Wednesday morning, just before 6 a.m., when he saw smoke coming from a house at 4698 U.S. Highway 15. He stopped at the residence, reported the fire by calling 911, and began walking around the building. He saw a lot of smoke coming from the eaves on all sides. A neighbor, alerted by a barking dog, came outside and told Brodgen where the bedrooms were located.

He found a piece of firewood, broke a window, and pulled one of the two occupants to safety. Brodgen then banged on a second window, and the second resident was able to self-evacuate. Crews from Providence FD, Corinth FD, and Oxford FD responded and controlled the fire within 20 minutes. The cause is under investigation. The property owners said there are smoke detectors inside, but could not advise if they had batteries. Read the entire story.

WRAL photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment: / Textile

Shannon Fire Department's New Rosenbauer

01/06/12 101 W, 1 I - + 5 - 6

From a reader, here's an interesting looking engine and another Rosenbauer in the Carolinas. This one's operated by Shannon Fire Department in Robeson County. Their old station (which is beside their current station) was one of my stops, while roaming down south earlier this week. The top-mounted pumper is a 1,250 GPM beauty with 1,000 gallon tank. The chassis is a Spartan Furion. Internal compartments for ladder and suction hose storage. Read more specs. Looking at the Rosenbauer web site, their trucks are making in-roads around here. Topsail Beach. ~~Mount Airy~~. Rocky Mount. Etcetera.

Rosenbauer America photo

Red Oak Community VFD (Pitt Co.) has a 2009(?) Rosenbauer pumper that serves as 5101. I'll see if I can get more specs for you, but it's a nice rig. It's painted in Chicago-style black over red on a Spartan Metro Star chassis. It's pretty sweet.
Duda (Email) - 01/06/12 - 14:44

Saw this one in the 4th of July parade in Pembroke (Robeson County) this past year. I thought it was the worst looking one in the parade. Mike, if you are ever back down that way, Pembroke has a Red/White/Blue Bi-Centennial ALF from 1976. Gas powered at that.
Marcus - 01/07/12 - 05:12

Thanks for the tip on the Bicentennial rig. We'll put you down as not a fan of the Spartan bullet-nose look…
Legeros - 01/07/12 - 08:33

Mount Airy does not own a Rosenbauer. They just bought a 100' Platform from E-One and its a beauty.
Greg Fedder - 01/07/12 - 10:34

I sit corrected, Mt. Airy, DE, is what I saw on the Rosenbauer site. Should've looked closer! http://www.rosenbaueramerica.com/deliver..
Legeros - 01/07/12 - 10:38

I've heard through the grapevine Buies Creek FD is getting a rosenbauer rescue body on a Spartan chassis. Heard possibly a walk-in as well. Anyone able to comment on anything further about the truck. It's nice to see Rosenbauer making a name for them selves and man it's great to see Spartans finally coming back to the south
StillDoinIt - 01/09/12 - 05:33

Nice truck. Good to see something different from time to time.
Different - 01/09/12 - 18:04

Carolina Beach runs a Rosenbauer tower ladder now, delivery was 2010 if not mistaken

Former Fire Stations - Robeson, Scotland, Horry Counties

01/06/12 82 W, 10 I - + 8 - 5

For your Friday morning viewing pleasure. Each links to my road trip photos. Will be added at some point to my former fire station database, which also needs updating with some recent pics from Lee and Lee.

Calabash FD - Laurinburg FD

Lumber Bridge FD - Ocean Isle Beach FD

Parkton FD - Red Springs FD

Rowland FD - Shalotte FD

Shannon FD - Horry County (SC) Old Station 7

Name: (real name preferred)

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Myrtle Beach Former Fire Stations

01/06/12 113 W, 2 I - + 7 - 4

Found only a pair of former fire stations in Myrtle Beach. Left is old Station 3 on South 13th Street, right is old Station 4 at the airport fire station on Phyllis Boulevard. Both were moved to much larger facilities nearby. Asking around, it sounds like the prior Station 1 (in a City Hall building) was demolished and the prior Station 2 was torn down and rebuilt at the same location. Unsure if any existing station buildings are historic, e.g. older than fifty years of age. Probably not, since much of Myrtle Beach is relatively new. Readers can perhaps advise more about MFFD facility history. Click to see larger versions:

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Selma Super Pumper in Action

01/08/12 63 W, 1 I - + 6 - 5

As photographed by Lee Wilson yesterday at live fire exercises in Selma. The engine is a 1985 Duplex/EEI with a 1,500 GPM Hale pump that we have blogged about before. Originally lettered as the Selma "super pumper." Looks like it's received an updated paint job in recent times. See more photos from yesterday.

Lee Wilson photo

---

the selma fire department is back on location today, continue their live burn trainng, with their entire appartus fleet, plus selma ems, and Wilsons mills, micro, thanksgiving, and elevation apparatus. At least that is what i saw as i drove by there today.
charlie - 01/08/12 - 15:10

Live fire training was concluded Sunday around 5 pm, from a weekend filled with intense hands-on training. Crews from Johnston, Wake, Wayne, and Cumberland counties participated in the two-day training. With 120+ rooms available in the structure, we successfully ran 28 teams crews from 120+ people, 13 instructors, and a ton of spectators, through 50+ of the available rooms.

Training consisted of teams advancing hose lines from the ground to the second and third floor, along with a few runs setup in a basement drill configuration. There were 6 drop tanks setup, with apparatus moving water from tank to tank, and one pumper supplementing supply to engine 12 (Selma's super pumper). Selma ladder 10 was used for periodic roof work on Saturday and setup for exposure protection on Sunday.

Saturday's apparatus included Selma E10, E11, E12, L10; Micro E1, Bethany Tanker 1, Wilson's Mills E3, Pine Level E3, Kenly E3, Elevation Utility 1, Selma EMS 31.

Sunday's apparatus included Selma E10, E11, E12, L10; Micro E1, Bethany Tanker 1, Smithfield E4, Pine Level E3, Kenly E4, Elevation Utility 1, Selma EMS 32.

Several days of training had occurred at this location prior to this weekend's live fire training: Johnston County RIT Training used the building, and for several days the Wake County fire academy trained in this structure. One day was set up for trench cut training (two trenches were cut in one wing). Several days of hose line advancement were also completed. This structure allowed for several days of training that would be otherwise extremely difficult to do.

A huge thank you to the following: all of the departments that came out and made this a huge success, the company who offered the building for training, Johnston Community College fire training that assisted in the efforts to makes this event possible, all the instructors, and Lee Wilson and all the other individuals that took pictures and video of this historical event.

If anyone has any questions please feel free to ask!

PTB EGH

Adam Brown - 01/09/12 - 19:41

Brown, how can you forget Thanksgiving???? They covered calls for Selma both days! LOL

House - 01/10/12 - 17:47

I had the privilege of photographing this burn on Sunday, along with Lee. My photos can be seen here; http://www.flickr.com/photos/jerryingram..

Jerry Ingram - 01/16/12 - 12:58

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Watch This Video - Everybody Goes Home, Chicago FD

01/08/12 84 W - + 8 - 7

Produced by the Chicago Fire Department and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, this superb short film was released a couple weeks ago. It contains personal testimonies by firefighters (and family members) who have experienced close calls, severe injuries, and deaths on the job. Seat belts. Structures. Health and wellness. Personal protective equipment. Complacency. Vehicle operations. Consequences. **Watch the video**. What it says is more powerful than any words that this blogger can craft.

Thanks for posting Mike! All members of the fire service should watch this video!
A.C. Rich - 01/08/12 - 12:44

This is the 2nd video produced. The NFFF did last year's video on FDNY with close calls from them.
Mike - 01/08/12 - 17:07

FDNY video: http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/kits/vol..
A.C. Rich - 01/09/12 - 00:48

Thanks AC.
Mike - 01/09/12 - 09:48

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

UPDATED: Robeson County Fire Chief Killed While Responding to Accident

01/12/12 279 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

January 12

Family visitation will be at Purnell Swett High School (11344 Deep Branch Road, Pembroke, NC, 28372) on Thursday, January 12, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Memorial Service will be at Purnell Swett High School (11344 Deep Branch Road, Pembroke, NC, 28372) on Friday, January 13, at 3:00 p.m.

Any departments planning to bring apparatus or honor guards planning to participate need to call 1-800- 678-3786 (NCFFF Memorial Hotline) for Apparatus Staging and Honor Guard Information. All participating apparatus and honor guards must be in place at Purnell Swett High School no later than 2:30 p.m. Additional apparatus stage information is forthcoming.

January 9

As was reported yesterday, Fire Chief Samuel Butler, 52, of the Evans Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department in Robeson County was killed in a vehicle accident just before 10:00 p.m. on Sunday evening, January 8. He was responding to a reported vehicle accident in the westbound lanes of Interstate 74.

He was driving his 1993 Toyota Camry and attempting a u-turn at the end of the on-ramp from Cabinet Shop Road, when his vehicle was struck by a tractor-trailer truck. Butler died on impact. Other firefighters, including one of Butler's sons, arrived within minutes. See the below stories for more details.

Butler had been a member of Evans Crossroads VFD for over 20 years, and was named fire chief a year ago. He'd served as Assistant Chief for 12 years. He was also President of the Robeson County Fireman's Association. He is survived by a wife, and a daughter, and two sons, who are both volunteer firefighters.

News stories

- The Fayetteville Observer
- FireNews.net
- The Laurinburg Exchange
- The Robesonian
- WRAL

So sorry for your loss, Your brothers in Wake County grieving as well.
FF - 01/10/12 - 09:01

A Fallen Fireman Funeral Service will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, January 13, 2012 at the Purnell Swett High School Gymnasium with burial following in the Strickland Family Cemetery. Services will be officiated by fellow fireman, Rev. Eddie Carter and Rev. Tim Chavis.
fireman12931 (Web Site) - 01/10/12 - 20:18

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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Pierce Peek

01/10/12 107 W, 1 I - + 10 - 7

Coming soon to the Cary Fire Department. New Ladder 3, new Rescue 2, and new Rescue 4. Three good looking pieces of Pierce apparatus. The platform ladder replaces a 2003 Pierce Dash platform, which will be placed in reserve, and which replaces a 1995 Mack / Craft Body Works service truck. It marks the town's first reserve aerial apparatus. The two rescue trucks replace a pair of 2000 Ford F-550 / KME light-duty rescue units. The new rigs are spec'ed the same as Truck 7, e.g. full compliment of ground ladders, breathing air compressors and fill stations, light tower, etc. Plus full extrication and fireground support equipment. Delivery soon! Click to enlarge:

CFD Truck-7 is now called Rescue-7, and Truck-6 is now called Ladder-6. This Change comes from the transfer to our new CAD & AVL system. The Rescue Companies of the CFD have a staff that consist of a Captain, Engineer, and two Firefighters, and requires a minimum staffing level of three. The Ladder Companies also have the same staffing model as the Rescue Companies. CFD Engine Companies have a Captain, Engineer, Master Firefighter, and two Firefighters, and requires a minimum staffing level of four personnel. Thanks for the picture, and everyone stay safe out there!!!!!!!!

JKH - 01/10/12 - 21:05

JKH, what is a routine residential structure fire response for Cary? Isn't it two engines a ladder a rescue a battalion and a county engine?

911 - 01/10/12 - 22:15

All and by the way congrats to CFD on the new apparatus. Good looking fleet.

911 - 01/10/12 - 22:17

For clarity's sake the staffing on Rescue 7 is 1 Captain, 1 Engineer, 1 Master FF, 1 FF. All of the Ladders have the same staffing of 1 Capt, 1 Eng, 1 MFF, 1FF. Rescue 2 and Rescue 4 have 1 Capt, 1 Eng and 2 FFs.

Our 1st alarm structural assignment is 2 Engines, 2 Ladders, 1 Rescue, 1 Batt. Chief, 1 Safety Officer (either a staff safety officer or the other Batt. Chief) and a auto-aid Engine.

We are getting the same amount of apparatus and personnel to the scene now as we did before the change in names and the end of the "Truck" company. What this change also did is shorten the ERF or the Effective Response Force time on structure fires. That is the time it takes for the entire assignment to arrive at the scene. Before Rescue 4 had some 15-20 minute responses to parts of District 7 on fires and vehicle accidents, driving the ERF times way up. Now with R7 those times have dramatically dropped. It also eases the dispatch confusion since T7 was taking traffic collisions for R4 in their area. Now we only have 3 apparatus types and the operations are more streamlined.

This leaves just 1 non-Pierce in the fleet, and it should be replaced next fiscal year.
shevais - 01/10/12 - 22:47

Nice looking trucks. Maybe someone from CFD can tell us why the bigger trucks instead of something along the lines of a medium duty truck. Will there be an increase in the amount of equipment carried on the new Rescues.
Jeff - 01/10/12 - 23:09

Jeff, the main differences between the current Rescue 2 and Rescue 4 are more cab space for the increased manpower added a few years ago, and the addition of a breathing air compressor and fill station along with a full compliment of truck company ladders and ventilation equipment. The breathing air compressor and fill station take up the rear two compartments on the driver's side alone. The rear compartment houses the ground ladder compliment. It also adds MUCH needed storage space for rescue equipment. The current R2 and R4 are F-550's crew cabs with a 3 door per side body. They are SLAMMED full of equipment and are not user friendly at all. Now there is also a light tower on the new units and an awning on the driver's side for rehab purposes. The new rescues essentially carry the same equipment as the ladder trucks (minus the pump, tank, hose and aerial device) in addition to a breathing air compressor and fill station, and a full compliment of Holmatro extrication equipment, air bags, res-q-jacks, etc.
shevais - 01/10/12 - 23:29

Thanks Shevais. Cary sure aint lacking in the equipment.
911 - 01/11/12 - 09:27

Looking good! Congrats Cary!!
A.C. Rich - 01/11/12 - 10:11

What a concept "The Rescue Companies of the CFD have a staff that consist of a Captain, Engineer, and two Firefighters, and requires a minimum staffing level of three." Congrats on the Pierces!
Duck R3 (Email) - 01/11/12 - 19:56

What kind of numbers does Cary FD put up per year? How many calls do the Rescues run in a year? They must have a lot of wrecks to have 3 trucks like that!
Stats - 01/11/12 - 22:45

While it's perhaps tempting to think of a department's rescue trucks (Cary or otherwise) as "wreck trucks," they perform a considerable greater range of tasks these days and respond on a wider range of call types. Unless you're just bustin' chops a bit…
Legeros - 01/12/12 - 07:55

I think its great that Cary has that many rescue trucks. I also think its a indication of how fiscally sound the town is that they can fund and support the fire department with apparatus like that in light of how the economy has been in recent years.
fiscally sound - 01/12/12 - 11:28

The rescues are some of the busiest trucks in the city. They run EMS calls within their first due and we dispatch a rescue on every traffic collision, technical rescue, land search and structure fire. They are also typically special called to gas leaks (for manpower and breathing air support) or when manpower is needed at any call type.

Cary FD ran just over 8000 calls in 2011.
shevais - 01/12/12 - 12:24

It is indeed interesting these months and years, to see the fiscal differences between municipalities and counties. There are so many factors that turn apples to oranges to grapes, when comparing towns/cities and fire services therein. Not to mention operational differences of the FDs, and even requirements for accreditation (for those departments that are accredited). Can make your head hurt!
Legeros - 01/12/12 - 18:54

Who is accredited in the area? I am assuming Cary is. Anyone else?
Wondering - 01/12/12 - 21:43

According to the CPSE website the following are accredited agencies in NC:

Asheville Fire & Rescue

Cary Fire Department
Charlotte Fire Department
Durham Fire Department
Fayetteville Fire/Emergency Management Department
Gastonia Fire Department
Greensboro Fire Department
Jacksonville Fire Department (NC)
Morrisville Fire & Rescue Department
Rocky Mount Fire Department, City of
Wilson Fire/Rescue Services

Wake Forest and Ft. Bragg are in the process of becoming accredited.
shevais - 01/12/12 - 23:45

Have no idea and not trying to start anything, but what is gained by being accredited?
Question - 01/13/12 - 01:36

Here's a page from the Fayetteville FD web site, answering that very question: http://www.bravethefire.com/accreditatio..

Although that reads more like a top-down or high-level summary. Perhaps others can provide a view from the trenches, and the benefits to departments as seen through the eyes of line personnel…
Legeros - 01/13/12 - 07:27

Very nice. Would like to see inside those Rescue's. Shev how 'bout some pics when you can?
AB - 01/13/12 - 07:47

They'll be in sometime next week and I'm sure Mike/Lee will swing by and grab some good shots. If not feel free to stop by and take a hands on look!
shevais - 01/13/12 - 08:34

It doesn't look like you get anything out of it that can't be done without the headache of going through the process
Mike - 01/13/12 - 11:48

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

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○ Yes
◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Avalon Mill Fire, 1911

01/10/12 112 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

Found for sale on eBay, here's your historic mill fire photo of the day. That's Avalon Mills burning on June 15, 1911, in the mill village of Avalon near Madison in Rockingham County. As this web page summarizes, more than 450 people lived in Avalon. Over half worked at the mill.

The village was eventually abandoned after the fire destroyed the structure. Residents both moved themselves and their houses (!). Read more about the village and the fire, which includes some drawings, which includes this insurance drawing of the building. Fire protection systems included "glass disc" sprinklers, fed from a 5,000 gallon tank and a 1,000 GPM pump. Click to slightly enlarge:

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Video of Pink Heals Parade in Hickory

01/11/12 301 W - + 5 - 4

Found via random searching on YouTube, here's a three-minute video of an apparatus parade in Hickory in September, as part of the Hickory Pink Heals Tour. Perhaps our intrepid readers can rattle off the participating departments and maybe even the trucks that we're watching.

January 12 update: Thanks to our western North Carolina apparatus guru Benjy Grice, that very list is included below.

This list excludes police units and the Salvation Army truck. Thanks Benjy!

- Pink Heels "Tonya," 1991 E-One Hush
- Pink Heels "Elaine," 1989 E-One Hush
- Pink Heels "Karen," 1989 Spartan / FMC
- Hickory FD, Engine 7, 2011 Spartan / Rosenbauer (Catawba County)
- Cooksville FD, Engine 141, 2005 International 4400 / Pierce (Catawba County)
- St Stephens FD, Engine 41, 2005 Pierce Enforcer (Catawba County)
- Catawba County EMS Ambulance (Catawba County)
- Hickory Police Department, Special Ops Mobile Command Post (Catawba County)
- Lovelady FD, Engine 631, 2004 KME Excel (Burke County)
- Lincoln Rescue Squad, Rescue 2011, Chevrolet C5500 / Wynn (Lincoln County)
- Two Catawba County EMS Supervisors (Catawba County)
- Valdese FD, Engine 601, 2004 Pierce Quantum (Burke County)
- Salem FD, Engine 6, 1996 Freightliner FL80 / Pierce (Burke County)
- Lincolnton FD, Engine 1, 2006 Pierce Dash (Lincoln County)
- Grace Chapel FD, Tanker 554, 2008 Kenworth T300 / 1985 Pierce (Caldwell County)
- Propst Crossroads FD, Engine 1, 2008 Spartan / Marion (Catawba County)
- Kings Creek FD, Brush 2008, Chevrolet C5500 / Anchor Richey (Caldwell County)
- Claremont FD, Engine 73, 2009 Spartan / Rosenbauer (Catawba County)
- Hickory Rescue Squad, Rescue 1, 2007 Spartan / Hackney (Catawba County)
- Longview FD, Ladder 25, 2001 Pierce Dash 75' rear-mount (Catawba County)
- Unknown antique
- Icard Township FD, Engine 4, 2007 Pierce Contender (Burke County)
- Lovelady Rescue Squad, Squad 9045, 1997 HME / 2000 Hackney (Caldwell County)
- Conover FD, Engine 2 or 3, 2004 Pierce Enforcer (Catawba County)
- George Hildebran FD, Engine 731, 2001 Kenworth T300 / Pierce (Burke County)
- Newton FD, Engine 4, 2001 Pierce Dash (Catawba County)

- Catawba FD, Engine 81, 2009 Pierce Contender (Catawba County)
- Oxford FD, Engine 131, 2009 Spartan / Rosenbauer (Catawba County)
- Claremont Rescue Squad ,Rescue 1, 2000 International 4900 / Pierce (Catawba County)

Our western North Carolina apparatus guru Benjy Grice has compiled and sent a list of the parade participants. They are added to the posting. Thanks Benjy!

Legeros - 01/12/12 - 08:00

For those interested, "Karen" ran in Henry County and Stockbridge,GA, "Elaine" served Biddeford,ME. and "Tonya" came from Tyler,TX. There is also an ALF Century in the High Point area that is painted pink folks will see this weekend at the Piedmont Fire Expo. Not sure where this one formerly served yet.

BFD1151 - 01/12/12 - 19:33

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

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Yes
No

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Raleigh Fire Museum Open Saturday, January 14

01/11/12 204 W, 2 I - + 7 - 3

The Raleigh Fire Department museum will be open **Saturday, January 14**, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The museum is located in a classroom trailer at the Keeter Training Center at 105 Keeter Center Drive, Raleigh.

Created and operated by the non-profit Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society, the museum is a collection of hundreds of artifacts and images representing over 150 years of firefighting in the Capitol City.

The centerpiece is the 1870 fire alarm bell that hung in a clock tower on Fayetteville Street and alerted the volunteer fire companies. Other displays include a photo history of city fire apparatus, from horse-drawn hose wagons to the modern pumping engines.

The Raleigh Fire Department museum is open on the second Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Parking and restrooms are available. Admission is free. Please note that the city's collection of antique fire apparatus is housed at a separate location, at Fire Station 28 at 3500 Forestville Road in northeast Raleigh.

Contact the historical society for information about arranging special tours or group events at the fire museum. For contact information, or to learn more more about the history of the Raleigh Fire Department, visit www.raleighfirehistory.org.

IMG_3519

2011-06-14-rfd-museum-29-mjl

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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Dispatchatron

01/12/12 74 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

From a reader, here's the neatest scanner mod seen in some time. A local resident has added flashing lights and a Matchbox- scale car launcher, configured for the occasion of a fire truck-themed birthday party for their son's fourth birthday. And you thought trip lights were cool! Be honest, who immediately wants a copy of the schematics? Read more and watch a video clip. Thanks Paul!

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Raleigh-Wake County Emergency Communications Center Celebrates 40th Anniversary

01/12/12 203 W, 1 I - + 9 - 3

Press release. The Raleigh-Wake County Emergency Communications Center is celebrating its 40th anniversary today. Since its founding in January of 1972, the center has rendered essential public safety communications that have substantially contributed to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires and saving of lives, both in Raleigh and through Wake County and the participating municipalities.

During the past four decades, the emergency communications center has seen growth in demand that mirrors the growth in the community. Between 2000 and 2010 alone, the number of emergency incidents dispatched grew by more than one third. Today, more than a million telephone calls are received or made by the staff each year.

Over the course of its history, the center has played an integral part in mitigating emergencies, both large and small. Among major incidents are the commuter airplane crash near the airport in 1988, Hurricane Fran in 1996, the ConAgra explosion and fire in 2009, and the killer tornadoes of 2011. Severe weather events are particularly challenging as they directly impact the most citizens and place greater demands upon the center. The 6,386 emergency calls received in a 24-hour period during Hurricane Fran still stands as a record. **Read entire press release**.

RWECC does an awesome job having to manage comms for many different agencies.
Kudos to the entire RWECC staff for a very successful first 40 years!
Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR (Email) (Web Site) - 01/13/12 - 09:58

Thanks for all you do for us on the other end of the radio and telephone!
Duda (Email) - 01/13/12 - 15:54

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

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Half Tiller Sitting in Sampson

01/14/12 55 W, 1 I - + 6 - 6

Lee Wilson this week found the front end of an American LaFrance tiller on Highway 55 at Highway 96. That's just east of Dunn, just east of Harnett County. Formerly served the Stafford Fire Department in Virginia. Maybe someone knows where the back end resides. See more photos.

Lee Wilson photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Fire Blogging and Free Speech and Living Out Loud

01/14/12 570 W - + 6 - 4

Last week or abouts, Curt Varone at Fire Law Blog answered this question: "Could blogging become an issue during the hiring process?" He provides a thoughtful legal perspective. Free speech is protected and the First Amendment is pretty broad in that regard. (He declines to provide a picture of said pretty broad, however. Use your imagination.) For this blogger (me, not that blogger, Curt), what's notable is what's largely unsaid.

Everything you do in the presence in others is observed by others. Your actions, your words, your behaviors over time, your character as perceived through your actions, and more. If you're a blogger or even just a regular social media user (e.g., you eat lots of fiber before getting on Facebook), then your words are having a far greater reach.

Can those words-- and the actions of being a person who "lives out loud"-- impact hiring and promotion and other aspects of your career. But of course! Getting a job, getting a promotion, etc. nearly or almost always require the decision of a human being other than yourself. And those people form their opinions and perspectives from any number of sources. That includes-- if available-- your actions through blogs and social media.

So what's a person to do, if they want to social media-ize but also be treated as fairly as possible in the workplace? As Varone notes in his posting above "The best advice is to be careful what you blog about. I am not talking about self-censorship out of fear – but rather out of thoughtfulness and respect for others. Think through what you have to say – say it in a respectful way, and you should be fine."

Be thoughtful, but perhaps don't worry. There will be those people who overreact to your thoughtful thoughts. There will be others who read them differently, or unexpectedly. There will be some who will take your nicest words and still use them in negative ways. Thus you can't really win by worrying about it. Be thoughtful, but don't obsess. Since blogs are a written media, over-thinking can curb the creative process. You words will suffer.

Mind you, this is a pretty easy perspective for Mike Legeros. I have been "living out loud" for a couple decades now. Was a movie reviewer for an age, then wrote and posted personal essays on the Internet. I have had a personal web site forever, with bits of my life dangling online like tinsel on a drying Christmas tree. I have been blogging for several years now. I am a frequent Facebook user, though with a private profile. Heck, I even have and use a Twitter account.

I am also 46 years old, and thus far less worried about what other people think of my actions. I have also been gainfully employed for ages (outside the fire service), so I haven't been a hunter on the job market.

What works for me works for me. What the best advice for you? Be thoughtful, at least at a minimum.

Your thoughts?

Postscript #1: What lessons have I learned the hard way, by having a web site and blogging and such? Good question! Complicated answer. Let me think about that one.

Postscript #2: What about having multiple versions of yourself online, either named or anonymous? Hmmmm. Another good question.

This is good advice for the online-world, as well as IRL. Think about everything before you say, write, or do it. Be sure to consider how it could be interpreted by various people, especially online. I have a tendency to lean towards the satirical and sarcastic, but that doesn't translate well in type-form. Actually, I've found that it doesn't translate well in person from time to time, either. I've identified a whole group of my "local" colleagues who do not understand the concept of sarcasm and cannot distinguish it from sincere speech. I know that I must tone down my unique sense of humor when around them…the same goes for statements on the "interwebz".

With that said, you shouldn't censor yourself too much online. You may get hired by writing/posting/acting conservatively, but you can only keep up the charade for so long and eventually your ideas and opinions will work their way out in person, and the results will be similar. So, I would advise triple-reading your posts before posting, but continuing to be yourself. What's the point in getting hired/promoted if you have to pretend to be an entirely different person?

On the other side of things, is it remotely possible that, in some far-off land of social progression with understanding and unselfish administrators, the act of authoring well-written posts on a fire service blog could have a POSITIVE effect on your job/position? Is it possible that department leaders would commend and reward such actions by hiring/promoting? I believe so, and have experienced it in person. Unfortunately, I'm familiar with too many cases where the opposite is true, as well. My personal opinion is that many of these "crackdowns" were due to simple jealousy by the administrators.

Alas, I will "censor" myself there.

Thoughts?

-Lt. Lemon
Lt. Lemon (Email) (Web Site) - 01/14/12 - 10:17

Thanks for your comments, Lemon. Humor in particular is tricky, and particularly tricky to communicate in writing. There's also the issue of respectful disagreement. Not everyone is inclined to communicate or express themselves in such open fashion. Ditto for the polite (or unpolite) disagreement for what you're expressing yourself about. But that's just another fact of life. Not everyone will like you, agree with you, or make sense of you. My take: It's better to myself, and as my myself as possible, so the universe can react accordingly. Helps those who are not fans move away, and those who are fans move closer.
Legeros - 01/14/12 - 13:27

My sentiments exactly. For me, the benefits of pretending to be what "they" want do not outweigh the loss of personality. You can't be friends with everyone. If you have to act/speak/think differently to get a job, or promotion, somewhere, would you really want to work there?
Lt. Lemon (Email) (Web Site) - 01/14/12 - 13:57

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

Post Comment Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

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

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

Vintage Color Footage of Greenville Fire Department

01/14/12 226 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

Here's a treat and a half as found by our friends at the Greenville Fire Department. Start watching about eight minutes into this 1941 silent color film. At the 08:03 mark. Watch firefighters receive a telephone alarm, slide down the pole, grab their gear, and roll with three gorgeous old trucks. Two Macks and a Reo, right? The segment is short but sweet, and part of a longer municipal overview. And some of the earlier color footage of North Carolina fire departments that this historian has seen. Watch some Raleigh Fire Department clips from 1950, for vintage motion picture action.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps provide some context for what we're seeing. In November 1941, they recorded the Greenville Fire Department protecting a population of 12,674 people with a volunteer department consisting of one chief, one assistant chief, two paid drivers, and 34 men. The firefighters were paid on call only. They operated a Mack triple combination pumper (750 GPM, 100 gallons) and a Reo triple combination pumper (350 GPM, 120 gallons). The fire alarm system had 50 boxes, with a horn on the fire station, which was built in 1940 at the corner of 5th and Green street. Here's a picture of the station some decades later, and before it was closed and later demolished. Take a peek inside or click to enlarge:

North Carolina State Archives photo

Fascinating! A look into the past and with such vivid color! It seems so weird… as this video appears to be prior to Dec 7th and WW-II. It is also interesting to me how life appears as so different then – simpler; yet in some ways so much the same as now. Ah…. and the old stereotype too: the firemen – "sitting around and playing cards!" Love it!

A.C. Rich - 01/14/12 - 22:06

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Notify: ☐ Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: ☐ Yes, hide my email address.

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

Morning Reading - January 15, 2012

01/15/12 383 W, 1 I - + 5 - 3

Good morning Raleigh. Did you catch last night's News 14 segment about the Raleigh Fire Museum? Yours Truly spoke on camera, during yesterday's regular scheduled opening. (Second Saturday of each month, located at the training center.) That's always a humbling experience. Need to bring a script or talking points next time. Talking extemporaneously is tough. And expensive! That word cost me $2.00 this morning...

- Fire Chief Sam Butler is buried - The *Fayetteville Observer* has a recap and a slide show of Friday's funeral service for Evans Crossroads Fire Chief Sam Butler, who was killed a week ago in a car accident while responding to a car accident. Photos by *Observer* photographer James Robinson.

- Fayetteville firefighters fired upon - Also from the *Observer* is a story from Friday night, where firefighters and police officers were fired upon at the scene of a small structure fire. A four stand-off ensured. Two officers sustained minor injuries. See this WRAL story also. Insert own flak-jacket joke.

- Cary fire station construction bid issues - *Cary News* story from last week, about issues with the construction bidding for Fire Station 8. The three-bay station at 408 Mills Park Drive is planned to open by summer of 2013. Interesting peek into that process.

- Fire commission meeting Thursday - Speaking of how sausage is made, the agenda and related documents have been posted for Thursday's meeting of the Wake County Fire Commission Meeting. Hot dog!

- Bill Boyd on social media and emergency management - Good educational video as re-posted by Statter911. Good discussion in the comments section, notably with myself and others answering one reader's question of "why should fire departments care how citizens get their news and if the news they get is correct?" On a related note, see Mr. Blogger's pontifications from yesterday on social media and free expression.

- Flashing in broad daylight - Get your mind of the gutter! Have you noticed a subtle change in Mikey's daytime photos? After a few weeks of night photography using off-camera flash, the technique is being tried in daylight. Camera bracket plus external flash to battle shadows, and particularly the harsh shadows of winter. Still learning, but seems to work fairly well. Here's the gear:

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

How It Started

01/15/12 48 W - + 10 - 2

As Firegeezer has posted, it was 40 years ago today that the pilot episode of *Emergency!* was broadcast. We know what happened next and many are here because of what happened next. Here's those first few minutes. Who tired of watching vintage apparatus in action?

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Post Comment | Preview Comment | (Register your username / Log in)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Atlas Fire Apparatus Ad - 1982

01/15/12 68 W, 1 I - + 6 - 4

Found for sale on eBay, here's a *Fire Engineering* magazine ad for Atlas Fire Apparatus in Raleigh. They built commercial-chassis pumpers, tankers, and mini-pumpers for a couple decades in the Capitol City. Started as Atlas Steel Products in 1959, and was acquired by Amfire in 1982. Later renamed Emergency Equipment Incorporated (EEI). Readers probably have plenty of anecdotes on this one. Click to enlarge:

When it's time to fight fires, you've got more to worry about than the beauty of your fire truck. You've got to be effective. And safe. And dependable.

Which is why Atlas introduced the Diamond Series. Fire trucks designed to perform. Beautifully.

FROM ATLAS, ONLY THE BEST

That means using only the very finest components, from the bumper chrome to the rear axle.

Like Hale pumps, on every truck we manufacture. And the strongest doors in the industry. Standard.

Of course Atlas understands that every fire department has its own needs. That's why we're adaptable.

Our diamond pumpers come equipped with Hale Pump capacities of 500, 750, 1000, 1250 and more. Booster tanks are available in mild steel or stainless steel. And the control grouping and gauges correspond to each other for easy reading.

The Atlas Gold tankers are available in 1000 to 3000 gallon models. Pump sizes are 250 to 1500 gpm.

Even the gear storage area can be adjusted to fit your particular needs.

And only the best parts are used, to meet and exceed all U.S. and NFPA standards.

That's Atlas quality.

GO AHEAD. COMPARE.

But Atlas understands that next to quality, you have to worry about cost. That's why we offer our trucks at affordable prices.

Some are less expensive, it's true. But we guarantee you'll have to sacrifice quality.

Some are more expensive. But why pay more when performance is the bottom line?

Check our prices. You'll be amazed at our competitiveness.

That's Atlas price.

QUALITY PLUS PRICE? VALUE.

Which brings us to the real reason Atlas builds the best fire truck in the business. Value.

High quality equipment at reasonable prices.

Something you won't find in any other fire truck.

Because to have the quality, the price, the value — you have to be Atlas. **Atlas Fire Apparatus, 1818 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh, NC 27679 Phone - 1-800-334-6610. In N.C., 1-800-662-3400.**

ATLAS

TO HAVE THE QUALITY, THE PRICE, THE VALUE...YOU HAVE TO BE ATLAS.

60 | FIRE ENGINEERING

For More Facts Circle 153 on Reply Card

Mike, WSFD had 4 pumpers built by EEI 4 Kenworth L700 canopy cabs w/ 1000gpm pumps and 500 tanks starting in 83,84,85,86, and then a final one on a MACK MC w/ 4 door cab enclosure and same specs as the previous Kenworths. Of course they were Lime green w, white roofs. Old girls did a good job and I had the pleasure of being assigned to all of them at one time or another.

Clay Simmons (Email) - 01/15/12 - 22:57

Here's a prior blog thread about EEI, and reader compiling a master delivery list: http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..

Legeros - 01/16/12 - 08:31

An earlier ad featured Wilson's Mills C-800 canopy cab pumper. I believe that they still have that pumper. It was a 1000 gpm unit, with a 750 gal tank, a 429 cid V8 gasoline engine, and a 5-speed transmission.

DJ - 01/16/12 - 17:54

Some of these EEI trucks still in use in Harnett County.

JS - 01/19/12 - 12:51

UPDATED: Mystery History

01/18/12 44 W, 4 I - + 9 - 5

January 18 update. Three more photos added. Does that confirm the exact building? How about a specific year, any guesses? Original posting: What are we looking at here? Can you place the location as well as the timeframe? Click to enlarge:

This is going to be either Sullivan or Lee Residence Hall on NC State's campus. Not sure of the time frame but it is probably before I was born in 1986!

Ben Davis (Web Site) - 01/16/12 - 22:26

Definitely Lee Hall, another fire alarm activation? ha

Jason S. - 01/17/12 - 09:03

An opportunity for some to see how the RFD hose lays were… 1 3/4" horse-shoe on left, 2 1/2" reverse, 3" forward, 1 1/2" horse-shoe on right (obscured from view). These hose lays were used until late 1989 (when the new Pierce engines were received). Many of the Macks continued to use the lay until converted over the next 2-3 years. The Captain in the photo appears to be retired Battalion Chief (Divison Cheif position now) Donnie Perry.

A.C. Rich - 01/18/12 - 09:16

I love those little Macks. They drove like a sports car (compared to the big Mack pumper/tankers at SFFD). We had a pristine little pumper like that (old 122) and had less than 30k miles on it when it was sold. I believe it was a 1985 or 86 Model. Good memories

AB - 01/18/12 - 10:30

Vintage Rigs - Triad and Triangle

01/16/12 90 W, 6 I - + 6 - 5

Reader David Raynor has been scanning some of his older fire apparatus photos. He shares these shots from Durham, Greensboro, High Point, and Raleigh. Left to right, top to bottom: 1986 Ford/EEI (E_ in 1986), 1985 EEI (E18 in 1986), 1974 American LaFrance (T5) and 1977 GMC/E-One (Sq 1), 19__ American LaFrance (E6) and 1977 GMC/E-One (Sq 1), 19__ Ward LaFrance (E7 in 1993), 1977 Mack/Baker (T111 in 2004) with curiously dressed person approaching from the rear. That guy's nothing but trouble... Click to enlarge:

David Raynor photos

---

the 86 Ford from Durham was Engine 8.
Charlie - 01/17/12 - 12:48

Mikey, is that you pacing the street behind the Baker from RFD. Sure does look a lot like you with the Hawaiian shirt!!!
House - 01/17/12 - 13:31

The High Point Pumper (E-3)was a 1973 Ward LaFrance with an Ambassador cab. Engine 1 also operated a 1973 Ward LaFrance unit for many years.
Curtis Teague - 01/18/12 - 23:38

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

Vintage Guilford EMS

01/18/12 57 W, 2 I - + 13 - 7

More time machine travels, this time with some Guilford EMS vehicles from back in the day. Dig that station wagon, man! Top shot is 1986, Unit 902 and a van at Base 3. Bottom shot is Unit 400 and Unit 1957 at City Stage in 1984. Readers can add makes, models, memories. Click to slightly enlarge:

David Raynor photos

#1957 looks like a Swab module…of all the modular type units I have ever ridden they were the best. Never did like the single rear wheels, though, They made them handle kind of, well, spongy. Real light bars, though.

DJ - 01/18/12 - 11:29

Guilford County EMS' Facebook group page has a ton of great vintage photos as well as some great current photos.

WD - 01/18/12 - 18:21

Thanks WD. Here's that FB page, http://www.facebook.com/groups/288489488... Scroll through the photos to see quite a few nifty vintage

pictures.
Legeros - 01/19/12 - 08:10

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter, Winter 2012

01/18/12 106 W, 2 I - + 7 - 6

The winter 2012 edition of the *Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter* has been posted to to the web site **raleighfirenews.org**. The contents include: Capt. Scott Nipper; Christmas morning fire; Two children rescued from apartment fire; Starting our centennial year; Chief Warner retires; More retirements; Promotions and appointments; New personnel; Response changes; Photo gallery; Recruit academy starts; Where are they now? Calendar; New live fire simulator. See the web site for back issues. Edited by Yours Truly (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:

Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 1 — Winter 2012

Captain Scott Nipper Killed

Captain Jonathan Scott Nipper, 43, was killed on Wednesday, Dec. 21, in a traffic accident in Granville County.

His daughter Gracie Nipper, 10, was airlifted to Duke Medical Center and underwent surgery for her injuries.

Capt. Nipper was assigned to Engine 13 at Station 1 on "B" platoon. He joined the Raleigh Fire Department on January 8, 1996.

Continued on page 2

Two Alarms on Christmas Morning

Two alarms were struck at 2547 New Hope Church Road early Sunday morning, Dec. 25. New Hope Engine 1 arrived and found flames showing through the roof of two of the townhome building's seven units.

After crews completed interior searches, defensive operations were started. Ladder 2 and Ladder 5 flowed in front of the building, and Ladder 1 deployed in the rear. Master streams and hose lines were also used outside the structure.

The 2:19 a.m. fire was controlled at 3:30 a.m. Fifteen families were displaced. The cause is undetermined, but started outside and spread to the roof. It's also the site of two prior two-alarm fires, in 2006 and 2010.

See more photos at www.RALEIGHFIRENEWS.org

Inside This Issue

1 Capt. Scott Nipper – Christmas Morning Fire
2 Capt. Nipper Continued – Two Children Rescued
3 Starting Our Centennial
4 Chief Warner Retires – More Retirements
5 Promotions & Appointments – New Personnel – Response Changes
6 Photo Gallery
7 Recruit Academy Starts – Where Are They Now?
8 Calendar – New Live Fire Simulator

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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UPDATED: Durham's New Haz-Mat Truck

02/04/12 144 W, 4 I - + 5 - 7

February 4
Updated with photo from Lee Wilson, who posed both Haz-Mat 13 and Engine 13 for photos this week. The 2011 International/CW Specialty Vehicles was placed in service on January 21. Futures include walk-in command module and top-mounted light tower. It's staffed by Engine 13, which operations a 2009 Sutphen pumper. Sunlight and a good angle makes all the difference! See photos of both trucks.

Lee Wilson photo

January 18
Our friends at DurhamFire.net have shared these photos of the Durham Fire Department's new haz-mat truck, a 2011 International that's soon to be in service at Station 13 on South Miami Boulevard. It replaces a decades-old Ford that's shown below in vintage yellow, in a years-ago shot from Lee Wilson. The truck was subsequently painted red. More details on the new truck as they're known. Click to enlarge:

DurhamFire.net photos

Lee Wilson photo

---

the new haz-mat truck is awesome. which now leaves rescue 7 as the oldest apparatus in Durham's fleet.
charlie - 01/18/12 - 21:04

Congratulations DFD HM!
A.C. Rich - 02/05/12 - 16:46

Who built the truck?
MSW - 02/06/12 - 12:31

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

Remember personal info?
○ Yes
◉ No

Yrac Fire Department Badge

01/19/12 50 W, 2 I - + 11 - 5

Here's our vintage badge of the week, a two-inch by two-inch badge from the Yrac Fire Department in Cary. Recently sold on eBay and snapped up by a local buyer. Read the history of the Yrac FD, which was Cary spelled backwards. Click to enlarge:

I sure would like to get my hands on one of them. I never got to keep mine from back in the day.
YRAC VFD - 01/21/12 - 08:54

I only saw one of them when I was a member of Yrac. By the time I was a member (late 70s) we were using the same small badge that Cary Area Rescue Squad was using (I still have all of the Yrac and CARS badges I wore). Thanks to a good friend, I now have one of the above badges.
DJ - 01/22/12 - 11:44

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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

Cary Receives New Rescues

01/20/12 93 W, 1 I - + 9 - 2

Two new Pierce Velocity rescue trucks were delivered yesterday to the Cary Fire Department. They'll replace a pair 2000 Ford F-550/KME light-duty units. The new Rescue 2 and Rescue 4 were spec'ed the same as Rescue 7, and carry a full compliment of ground ladders, breathing air compressors and fill stations, light tower, etc. Plus full extrication and fireground support stuff. Cary's new Pierce Velocity platform ladder is due today. See this prior posting about the trucks, including a good reader discussion. See more photos from Lee Wilson.

Lee Wilson photo

I'm not a truck committe or have to deal with budgets but can someone clue us in on the additional cost of painted doors compared to non painted?
I notice Raleigh has both. If I recall the newer truck companies are painted.

And I may have missed it but are these rescues fully staffed and if so how many personel are assigned?
Buckwheat - 01/20/12 - 15:38

from what I understand if there is any cost it is negligable. And yes they are fully staffed and assigned 1 Capt, 1 Eng, 2 FF. We ride minimum of 3 personnel.
shevais - 01/20/12 - 16:29

Spacious.
Duda (Email) - 01/22/12 - 15:34

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Morning Reading - January 20, 2012

01/20/12 407 W - + 5 - 4

Good morning Raleigh. The merger of Falls and Wake Forest fire departments is scheduled for April, as reported at last night's Wake County Fire Services meeting. Both Fire Chiefs told the commission that their expectations have been exceeded by how well the process has been working. Good to hear. Also introduced last night was The Wake County Association of Fire Chiefs, a new organization comprised of chief officers from fire departments in Wake County. More information forthcoming, as well as more meeting highlights.

- Firefighter 'brotherhood' watches over family of Greensboro fire captain - Nice *Chicago Sun-Times* story about the support provided after the passing of Capt. Will Caviness, who collapsed and died on October 9 while running the Chicago marathon. Capt. Caviness will also be honored by the the American Red Cross next month, posthumously receiving their Salute to Heroes award. Read press release.

- No safety breach in Asheville firefighter death - *Citizen-Times* story from Wednesday reporting the findings of the North Carolina Department of Labor in their investigation of the July 28 death of Capt. Jeff Bowen. He died while fighting a fire at a medical office building on Biltmore Avenue. The board determined no rules were broken, but recommended some improvements. The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is also preparing a report on the incident, which is expected in the next month or so.

- Morehead City structure fire with backdraft - FireNews.net has the story and a couple photos of a residential structure fire on Mandy Lane on December 2. During suppression inside the structure, crews reported high heat conditions. They were then briefly overrun by flames when a backdraft occurred. No injuries resulted. Read the story for more. ~~That street, by the way, was named after one of Mr. Blogger's childhood (well, teenage childhood) friends. (Her name was... Mandy.)~~ [Update: Untrue, but we've had a good laugh, as she's since advised of the correct origins.]

- Sugarloaf ski fatality and Maine EMS protocols - There's a lively (and lengthy) discussion underway on Curt Varone's Fire Law blog around a January 12 incident at Maine ski resort, and issues (both reported and speculated) involving the treatment and transport of a patient who died after striking a tree. (Are the reader comments the EMS equivalent of fireground quarterbacking?) Blogger Dave Statter's also following the story, and looking through the public relations slash reputation management lens.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Wet Trees at Night

01/21/12 65 W, 1 I - + 7 - 3

As photographed at last night's major house fire on Dun Loring Drive in Wake Forest. This is accidental art, a shot snapped to simply show "here's what the yard looked like." Plus a conversion to gray scale.We'll post a proper (er, dedicated) incident summary and a photo facing the structure a little bit later. Click to enlarge:

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Post Comment Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Notify: ☐ Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Firefighters Bury Dog Killed in Friday's House Fire

01/22/12 115 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

Postscript to Friday night's house fire in Wake Forest, as reported by WRAL. Though the owners of home at 2636 Dun Loring Drive were out of town, their dog was still inside the structure. Their Italian Greyhound named Adele perished in the blaze. After the fire was extinguished, firefighters buried the dog in the rubble of the structure. They fashioned a cross from the debris and placed a brick marker on the grave with Adele's name. One of the neighbors was so moved by the gesture that she sent a photo to the news station. Read the entire story. See prior posting about the fire.

WRAL photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Now This is a REAL Man Cave

01/22/12 111 W, 1 I - + 7 - 2

For sale on GovDeals, currently priced at a mere $454.44. Located just down the road (a bit) in Douglas, GA. One former forestry tower, approximately 100 feet tall. Buyer must remove the structure themselves. Also requires a cleanup deposit ($300) and a certificate of insurance binder ($1,000,000) prior to removal. Talk about a deal! There's the building itself, perfect as any fireman's man cave. Then there's the tower, which should bring at least a little dough as scrap metal. Raise you hand if you'll be bidding, and let me know if you win! We'll want pictures! Thanks to "Firegeezer" Bill S. for sending.

GovDeals photo

I'm not sure how big of a man cave that would make. I guess if you were small of stature or perhaps just an LP, it may be perfect. Those cabs aren't exactly spacious. As far as I've been told, all or most of NCFS's firetowers are or will be on the surplus list. Ones that have been maintained are definitely worth looking at. Id' personally love to have one just for the promise of exercise from ascending and descending the stairs.

Duda (Email) - 01/22/12 - 15:31

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ Textile

UPDATED: Fire Commission Meeting - Jan. 19, 2012

01/22/12 603 W - + 9 - 3

January 22:

Handful of highlights from the meeting, as best recounted by myself. These are my words in places, not necessarily the language used by those speaking at the meetings. Apologizes for goofy paraphrasing. See full agenda and meeting documents below.

- Eastern Wake Fire Department Update - The county auditor has been appointed the trustee of EWFD for a minimum of two years. The county commissioners have also appointed four members to the EWFD board of directors. The fire commission will be also kept apprised going forward of any developments. See minutes of prior meetings for the story so far.

- Bay Leaf Fire Station #1 Reconstruction - Construction documents are being prepared and the bid process is expected to be completed in late April. Construction is expected to start in June. The station will take two years to build. A temporary station will be erected/opened on the site, before the reconstruction begins.

- Wake Forest/Falls Merger - This is planned to take effect (or is that completed?) in April. They've already started working on full operational consolidation, have committees working on various points, created a new organizational structure, created policies for volunteers, and are preparing the paperwork to file for the disillusion of Falls Fire Department. The merger was planned for March, but has been pushed one month so the Falls fire district can be included in the upcoming ISO evaluation of Wake Forest. Both Fire Chiefs told the commission that their expectations have been exceeded by how well the process has been working.

- Fire Protection Agreement Revisions - The agreement documents used with non-profit fire departments are undergoing revisions, and notably with regard to language around monies, assets, liquidation of assets, department disillusions, etc.

- Wake County Association of Fire Chiefs - Garner Fire Chief Matt Poole presented an introduction during the period of public comment. The recently organized organization started as a chief officer's lunch in May, and for the purpose of meeting, greeting, and networking. As participation grew, the need for an entity was apparent. The group has drafted by-laws and established their mission. Voting members can be any chief officer of any fire department in Wake County. Public, private, municipal, volunteer, combination, etc. They also retired and honorary members. Their first project is a pair of classes this week taught by NFA instructor Howard Cross. Those classes are being conducted with the participation of the Wake County Firefighter's Association.

January 13:

The next meeting of the Wake County Fire Commission is Thursday, January 19, 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 Carya Drive. See below agenda and related documents. See this related posting from earlier this year, to learn more about this governing body.

Agenda

- Call meeting to order
  - Invocation
  - Roll of Members Present
  - Approval of Agenda
- Minutes
  - Adoption of Minutes for Nov. 17, 2011, Regular Meeting
- Regular Agenda
  - Fire Commission Chair Election
  - Fire Commission Vice Chair Election
  - Apparatus Committee
- Information Agenda

The documents:

1. Agenda for Jan. 19, 2011
2. Draft Minutes of Nov. 17, 2011, Regular Meeting
3. Apparatus Committee meeting notes, Sep. 27, 2011
4. Wake Forest/Falls merger agreement disposition of apparatus
5. Finance reports

    - Eastern Wake Fire Department Update
    - Bay Leaf Reconstruction Project Update
    - Fire Tax Financial Report
    - Single Fire Tax District Budget Update
    - Executive Service Corps of the Triangle
    - Chair Report
    - Fire and Emergency Management Director Report
        - Business Plan Update
        - Wake Forest Fire Department / Falls Fire Department Merger
        - Fire Protection Agreement Revisions
- Other Business
- Public Comments
    - 30 minutes maximum time allotted, Maximum three minutes per person
- Adjournment - Next Meeting Mar. 15, 2012

Any information on where Falls apparatus would end up?Another department? Back to the county?
Just Curious - 01/23/12 - 13:25

This document details a pair of plans proposed for the disposition of Falls apparatus. I believe plan "B" was adopted:
http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog..

2009 Pierce Contender pumper-tanker moved to another county fire department, due a replacement
2007 Pierce Contender pumper-tanker to WFFD, disposed to county at end of life (2027)
1994 E-One pumper-tanker to WFFD, replaced with tanker in 2014
2005 Ford F-550 brush truck to WFFD, disposed to county at end of life
2003 Ford F-350 utility vehicle disposition to be decided by WFFD/FFD
2003 Ford Expedition disposition to be decided by WFFD/FFD
Legeros - 01/23/12 - 19:55

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

Post Comment Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

CFD and RFD - The Command Connection

01/22/12 295 W - + 9 - 6

Did you know that three members of the Raleigh Fire Department have served as Fire Chief of the Cary Fire Department? After Asst. Chief R. Lee Matthews retired in 1963 with 36+ years of service, he took the position of Acting Fire Chief for five months in 1967. He was acting chief from January 21, 1967 to May 1, 1967. Matthews had served the Cary Fire Department in earlier times. In 1926, for example, the fire department had 12 (!) volunteers with Matthews acting as a part-time training officer.

Chief Matthews replacement was Clarence F. Ayscue. He was appointed Fire Chief on May 1, 1967 and served until July 15, 1968, when he was hired as a firefighter for the City of Raleigh. He retired from the department in 1989. Subsequent Cary Fire Chiefs were John L. Dew (1968-69), Billy Henderson (1969-71), and Terry Edmundson (1971-75).

Chief Edmundson's replacement was Capt. Ned K. Perry, who served with the city from 1958 to 1975. Perry was also a charter member of the Raleigh Fireman's Club Inc. (organized in 1968) and the first President of the re-chartered Raleigh Firefighter's Association Local No. 548 (organized in 1969). Perry served the Cary Fire Department for 18 years and retired in 1993.

Another former Raleigh firefighter is a current member of the Cary Fire Department command staff. Capt. Mike Cooper was a member of the Raleigh Fire Department from 1991 to 2005, when he was hired by the town of Cary as an Assistant Fire Chief of Logistics. He served in the role from 2005 to 2010. When Asst. Chief Don Daniels retired in January 2010, he moved over to supervise Budget and Planning and serve as the department's Accreditation Manager.

Next project? How about mapping the command staff connections for other fire departments in Wake and surrounding counties? Now that would be an interesting list to compile!

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Post Comment | Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Notify: ☐ Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: ☐ Yes, hide my email address.

Raleigh Emergency Rescue Squad Incorporation, 1953

01/22/12 658 W, 4 I - + 8 - 7

From the archives of the Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society, here's the incorporation certificate of the Raleigh Emergency Rescue Squad. The document is dated August 27, 1953, and signed by Secretary of State Thad Eure. Click **once or twice** to enlarge:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
Department of State

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

I Thad Eure, Secretary of State of the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify the following and hereto attached (four (4) sheets) to be a true copy of the Certificate OF INCORPORATION OF THE RALEIGH EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUAD, INCORPORATED and the probates thereon, as the same is taken from and compared with the original filed in this office on the 27th day of August A.D. 19 53.

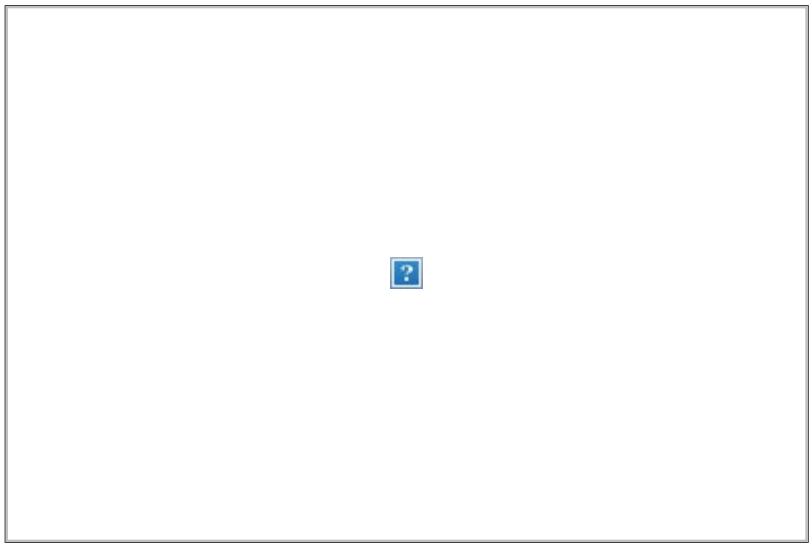
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal.

Done in Office, at Raleigh, this 27th day of August in the year of our Lord 19 53.

Secretary of State

Here's a bit of their history, as contained on this page about modern volunteers of the Raleigh Fire Department:

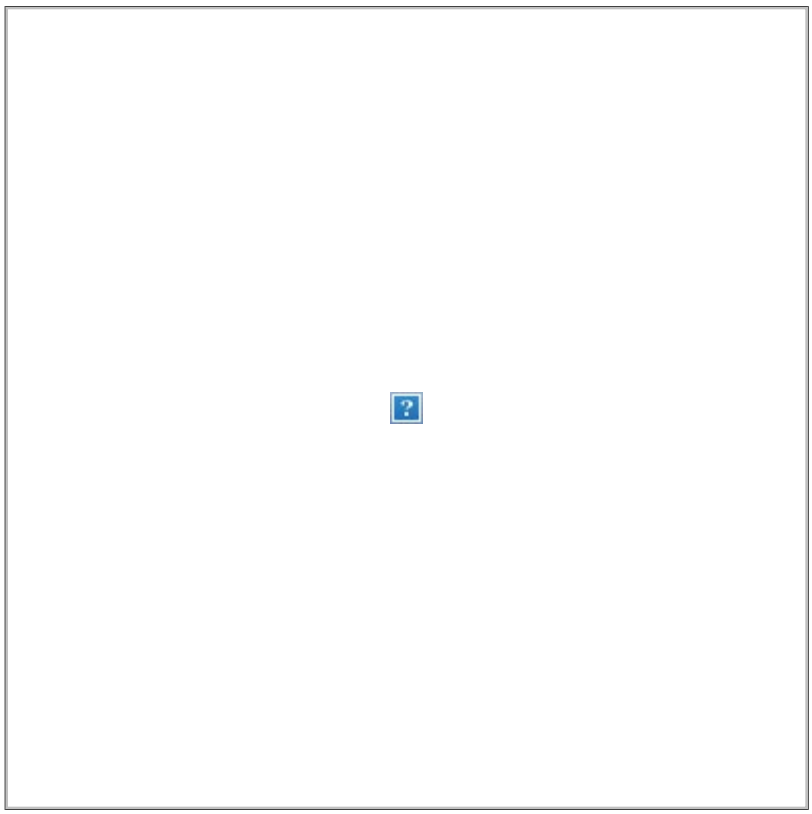
> "[They were organized] after both the police and fire departments were criticized for the delay in extricating a driver pinned under a truck on Hillsboro Street. Criticism also came after a drowning in the Neuse River several miles from Raleigh. The body was not recovered for a week until City Manager W. H. Harper asked [Raleigh Fire Department] Captain Jack Keeter to help however he could. Along with Assistant Chief Lee Matthews, civilian Bob Biggs, and future police officer Andy Povlosky, the four borrowed a fishing boat from one man, a boat motor from another, and transported the items to the river in Keeter's pick-up truck. The four launched the boat, and Povlosky and Matthews rode around until finding and recovering the body. Later, a Red Cross course was conducted with about 25 firefighters and civilians attending.
>
> "The Raleigh Emergency Rescue Squad was formally chartered on August 27, 1953. The Wake County Office of Civil Defense allocated $2,500 for a rescue truck and a 1954 GMC panel van was purchased. Local businesses donated money and materials to outfit the van. Squad members also designed and built a boat trailer and the city provided the funding for two boats and two motors. The rescue squad responded both in the city and in the county, though only provided patient transport when an ambulance was not available. They were particularly helpful during the period between when area funeral homes stopped providing patient transport and when private ambulance services started operating.



News & Observer photograph

"Though the Raleigh Emergency Rescue Squad was organized as a volunteer agency, Captain Keeter persuaded the city to designate two firefighters as rescue officers. Harold Jones and Roma Wilder were appointed as such and sent to a rescue school in Maryland for further training. They worked opposite shifts and operated the rescue vehicles, pulling a second man off one of the companies at Station 1 when they needed assistance. The volunteer members were subject to call, though they mostly participated in body recovery efforts in local lakes and rivers.

"In addition to the panel van, a second piece of apparatus was obtained with the aid of the federal government. A 1954 Reo Civil Defense rescue truck was placed in service, though with a requirement that the truck be considered a piece of 'stand-by equipment' that could be called to Norfolk, Virginia in the event of an "attack by enemy forces." Equipment carried on the 2.5-ton truck included torches, power saws, gas masks, helmets, and first-aid equipment. The heavier rescue truck was rarely utilized, however.



News & Observer photograph

"Wake County also provided $100 a month for the rescue squad and the funds were used for the rescue officer's insurance and any needed materials. Both vehicles and the boat trailer were stored at Fire Station 1 on South Dawson Street. By 1972, the number of

dedicated personnel had expanded to four firefighters. In 1974, a second Raleigh rescue squad was placed in service. The units were still funded by both the city and the county at that time, though they rarely performed patient transport. Funeral homes and later private ambulance services transported patients, though the rescue squad helped fill the gap in the early 1970s between when funeral homes stopped transporting patients and the private ambulance services started. The squads were also utilized to transport firefighters and firefighter family members as needed. After the formation of Wake County EMS in 1976, the squads served as back-up units when no Wake EMS ambulances were available. The squads served as back-up units through the late 1980s

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Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- Yes
- No

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Cary's New Ladder 3

01/23/12 103 W, 1 I - + 5 - 4

Delivered on Friday morning, January 20. Photographed at Station 1 by Lee Wilson, who plans to return when the sun is shining. The town's third new fire engine is a 2012 Pierce Velocity aerial platform, 100-foot with a 1500 GPM pump and a 300 gallon tank. It replaces a 2003 Pierce Dash aerial platform, which will be placed in reserve and which will replace a 1995 Mack/Craft Body Works service truck. This marks their eight Velocity, following Engine 1, Engine 3, Engine 7, Truck 6, Rescue 7, and the new Rescue 2 and Rescue 4. Read prior posting and discussion about the new deliveries. **See more photos from Lee**.

Lee Wilson photo

Did Cary win the lottery to order all this new equipment?..or is the budget so over inflated the $$ needs to be spent or risk losing it?...
spenders - 01/23/12 - 10:09

Thanks for your question, Spenders. Let me rephrase in a less antagonistic fashion. In these tougher economic times, how is Cary able to afford this new equipment?

I submit this as a piece of the answer. While the economy has been tough for a number of years, the amount of money that municipalities have can vary greatly. The factors range from their tax base to their budget strategy.

In the last couple weeks, there have been reports of budget surpluses in local towns, some of which have been in the millions (if memory serves). There are many different kinds of fruits (be careful) in these comparisons that are tempting to paint as apples to apples.
Legeros - 01/23/12 - 10:17

It's called a capital improvement budget. Or they may have had a big time surplus like Apex did.
Capital - 01/23/12 - 15:17

Cary does a great job of budgeting, buying what is needed and delaying what can be delayed. The Town council gets the most bang for their buck. It's not like the budget is inflated, actually, Cary has the cheapest tax rate in Wake County at just .33, and in past years, the Town actually made a cut in the tax rate which was .42. Cary has cut the budget and is still able to maintain essential services. The employees have managed to get raises even through this down turn in the economy. It's all about sound financial practices and doing what is right. My opinion is that the citizens of Cary get the most bang for their buck when compared to other municipalities. Look at the parks, greenways, and other

services that the Town provides, all while not giving a tax rate increase in 20 years. These trucks are part of the capital improvement budget and were planned for years ago. There is a replacement schedule for all equipment and this allows for planning and budgeting, that way there is no surprises.
David - 01/23/12 - 15:17

Conveniently, here's a Cary News article from last week about the town and it's budgeting: http://www.carynews.com/2012/01/21/51063..
Legeros - 01/24/12 - 09:25

Do remember that everything you read my be skewed to have you believe a particular point of view. While Cary may have a low tax rate, the cost for all city services as a whole is higher than other communities in the area. Take a look at the following graphic which helps show service totals from multiple cities: http://www.raleighnc.gov/content/AdminSe..
H2O - 01/24/12 - 15:03

H20,the link that you posted showed Cary as the 6th lowest in cost out of the 21 town/cities on the chart. I would have to say they are one of the cheapest overall.
John - 01/25/12 - 21:06

any city or town can conduct a reassessment and lower the property tax RATE. As h2o said above, Do remember that everything you read my be skewed to have you believe a particular point of view.
tax assessor - 01/25/12 - 21:17

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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

Korean Tow Trucks Race to Reach an Accident First

01/23/12 63 W - + 10 - 6

Found on Facebook, here's your wild video of the day. Four minutes of fast driving (and using a siren at times!) through what looks like a major city in South Korea. At least one rival tow truck is seen toward the end of the clip. How many moving violations do you spot?

Another rival passes our truck on the right at the 2:06 mark, but the inexperienced racer gets caught in a traffic backup and Our Hero regains the lead when he wrong-lanes around the backup at 2:52.

Bill Schumm - 01/23/12 - 11:08

Meanwhile, back at the Hall of Justice, Aquaman prepares a peanut butter and jelly sandwich because he can't do crap. Using his telepathic powers, he summons a can of sardines (buh-buh-buh-buh…).

Duda (Email) - 01/23/12 - 12:23

I wonder how often you see a tow towing a tow (almost a tongue twister). They must create their own business driving like that.

2redline - 01/23/12 - 13:27

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

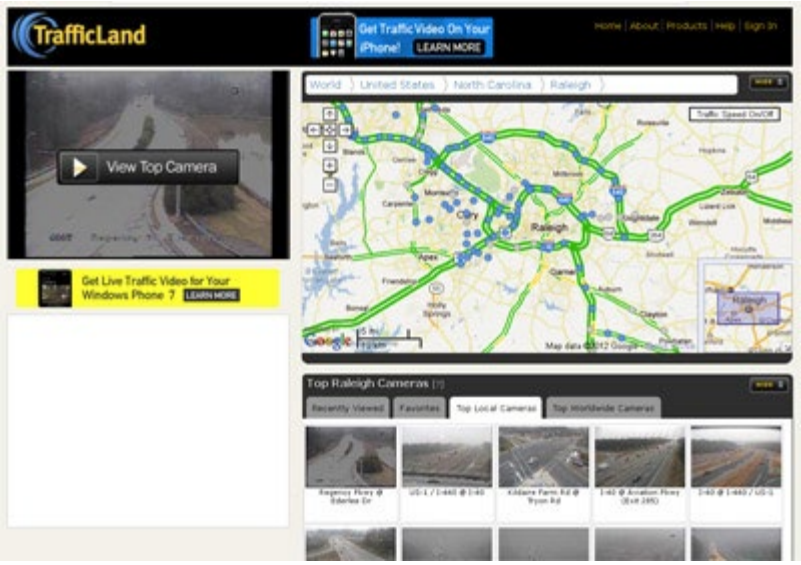
Comment:

/ Textile

TrafficLand = Best Traffic Camera Site Ever

01/23/12 32 W, 1 I - + 11 - 9

Here's their page of traffic cameras in Raleigh. Camera images updates every two *seconds*. Bookmark now. That is all.



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very cool site…like the quick refreshes and clarity!...hope to see more cameras especially around Capital and 401 areas!!
cam user - 01/24/12 - 14:33

Awesome site! Good find. Neat to hear a company get a call and see them realtime go through an intersection. Hope the chiefs don't find this site. They can really bust some drivers not doing a full stop! Be careful out there!
Rescue Ranger - 01/24/12 - 20:46

Credit to the crews, and one of the stations that showed me the thing. The many-second delay on WRAL and other sites drove me NUTS.
Legeros - 01/24/12 - 20:48

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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Wake Forest's New Engine

01/23/12 65 W, 1 I - + 13 - 7

From a reader, here's another new delivery. The Wake Forest Fire Department last week received this 2012 Pierce Saber ~~pumper-tanker~~ engine, 1500/1000. Features include a 10-inch cab extension, roof-mounted light tower, and foam system. It replaces a 1996 E-One engine, which will be placed in reserve, which will replace Engine 4, a 1989 Simon-Duplex/FMC engine, which will be sold. Click to enlarge. Thanks Matt!

Good looking rig fellas. Glad to see you all getting away from those flat roofs. Im sure some of you all will miss the old Duplex or atleast the memories of calls on it.
911 - 01/23/12 - 20:36

Is the Saber replacing the Contender?
and anyone at Wake Forest know if there are any more trucks like this coming in 2012?
Buckwheat - 01/24/12 - 00:07

Yes, the Saber was re-introduced as what used to be the Contender. It is also now able to be manufactured in Wisconsin or Florida
shevais - 01/24/12 - 08:44

Stony Hill's Pumper 392 (received in 2011) is a Saber and is pretty much the same as WFFD's (with some minor changes). These series of trucks have much better build characteristics than the Contenders.
A.C. Rich - 01/24/12 - 14:58

A pumper-tanker is defined as a rig with over 1000 gallons??? if so then why do some depts still can them engines ?....doesnt that give a false description of what is enroute…I would rather know a P/T is coming knowing it has 1000 gallons rather than a engine comong with 500-750 gallons l
confused - 01/25/12 - 22:10

The term "pumper-tanker" is 100-percent my phraseology, and perhaps entirely incorrect! Perhaps I should simply say "their new 1,000-gallon engine!"
Legeros - 01/25/12 - 22:47

pumpers have the ability to dump water, and some, if not most carry dump tanks.

Engines do not have the ability to dump water.

The amount of water carried doesn't matter as most everything in the county depts is 1000 gal tanks. The Tankers are either 1800 or 2000 gallon. (Crew Cab are 1800, standard cab are 2000).
simplified - 01/25/12 - 22:52

A good looking rig. Congrats to WF.

Some people refer to a pumper/tanker as a Class A pumper with 1000+ gallons of water, while other use the term pumper/tanker to describe Class A pumpers that have quick dump capabilities. I personally prefer the latter, I think of a pumper/tanker as a unit that could either function as a pumper or as a tanker. It is hard to be effective in a water shuttle without a quick dump.
Griggs - 01/31/12 - 13:42

When you combine too many roles you end up doing both ok, but neither very well. Use Engines for attack and tankers to haul water. Nice truck WF
ncff - 01/31/12 - 14:23

Fuquay has another Saber ordered and being built as we speak. Also I forgot to mention that I like seeing the side mount pump considered on some of these new county engines (preference of mine).
911 - 02/02/12 - 23:27

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

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Yes
No

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

Vintage Building Permit, 1947

01/24/12 26 W, 1 I - + 10 - 3

From our friends in the city inspections department, here's a building permit dated November 26, 1947. No lathing until wiring inspected! Click to enlarge:

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

Morning Reading - January 26, 2012

01/26/12 373 W - + 5 - 8

Good morning Raleigh. Watch your mailboxes for the latest issue of *Carolina Fire Rescue EMS Journal*, which features a two-page article about the centennial history of the Raleigh Fire Department. Author credit Yours Truly. Included are sidebars about the biggest fires, and ordering Raleigh FD centennial challenge coins. Please note that the date for this summer's birthday party has been changed to June 16, 2012. See www.RFD100.com.

- Wake County EMS seeks federal grant to help lower medical costs - *News & Observer* story from last week about approval for Wake County EMS to apply for a nearly $1 million grant to add 14 advanced ~~placement~~ practice paramedics, two supervisors, and a grant supervisor. The monies will expand a current pilot program that can provide alternate (and less costly) treatment and transport options for some types of patients.

- Asheville firefighter Jay Bettencourt tells his story - Statter911 feature in two parts, with Asheville Firefighter Jay Bettencourt telling the first-person story of the medical office building fire on July 28, 2011. He recounts his actions and experiences at the incident, including the interior operations. The fire took the life of his friend, mentor, and captain, Jeff Bowen, and seriously injured Bettencourt. It is powerful and perhaps mandatory reading.

- Group creates national firefighter code of ethics - Firehouse.com story about a code of ethics created by the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association with the assistance of the National Society of Executive Fire Officers. Hope to blog about this later in a dedicated posting. Are some (very small percentage) firefighters behaving more badly than ever before? Probably not. Rather, it's the increased visibility of their actions. It's easier than ever for people outside the fire service to learn what's happening inside the fire service. More later.

- One bus, two bus, red bus, bad bus - Digital Photography Review article about a fascinating copyright rule in England. One image that's similar but not directly copied has been ruled as a copyright infringement. How different are copyright laws overseas versus over here? Not sure on that one, but they are different, to be sure. As for that site, it's my recommendation as the go-to source for discussion of photography as well as camera reviews.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Raleigh Fire Department Celebrates Centennial in 2012

01/28/12 62 W, 1 I - + 8 - 3

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! The Raleigh Fire Department is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. FireNews.net has published a special feature, including a long short history of the fire department's last 100 years. Learn more at www.RFD100.com, a new site that's still new. Click the image to **read the FireNews feature**.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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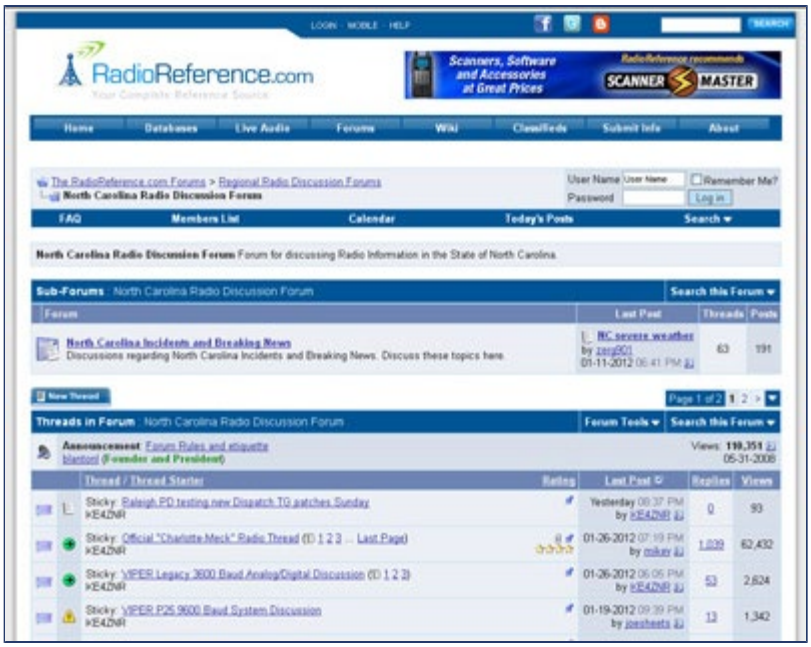
What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?

North Carolina Radio Discussion Forums on RadioReference.com

01/29/12 74 W, 1 I - + 12 - 6

Looking for a place to ask questions about scanners and frequencies and monitoring public safety (or other) radio channels around the Triangle? Check out the **North Carolina Radio Discussion Forum** on RadioReference.com. Good place to post questions and participate in discussions. You'll learn all sorts of things, such as what's happening with the dispatch talkgroup patches being tried today by the Raleigh Police Department.



Thanks Mike! Between your great blog and RR.com I think we have Central NC covered pretty well. The RPD Split Dispatching trial run appeared to go well. Which is good because RPD will be switching to it permanently sometime in February.
As always I appreciate any feedback, suggestions, etc on how we can improve the NC forums & database.
Happy Monitoring to all and stay safe!
Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR (Email) (Web Site) - 01/30/12 - 09:48

I enjoy listening to RFD, County Fire and EMS but it would be great if there were a scanner dedicated to these agencies.
Our friends at RPD and WSO talk all the time….mostly about nothing and typically fill up about 90 to 95% of the chatter thus we can't hear any working Fire/EMS incidents unless its SLOW in the POLICE world.

Oh well…maybe Santa will surprise us in 2012.
One can only hope.
Buckwheat - 01/30/12 - 12:54

LE uses the radio more because it's the nature of the work. If we had 3 or 4 coworkers in the vehicle with us, we wouldn't have to use the radio that much, either! :)
rfburns - 01/30/12 - 23:04

Life of an American Fireman, 1903

01/29/12 83 W - + 12 - 4

Here's a video that was shared on the Carolinas Fire Page mailing list. This is the famous early silent short *Life of An American Fireman*, shot in 1902 by Edwin S. Porter for the Edison Manufacturing Company. Read the Wikipedia entry. This was one of the earliest American narrative films, and utilized personnel and equipment from New York, Newark, Orange, and East Orange, NJ. As these notes from the filmmaker recount, about 300 firefighters appear in the various scenes.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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(Register your username / Log in)

Mystery Habitat

01/29/12 42 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

Blink and you'll miss this one. That is, if you're riding in a passenger car. There are a couple of these around this place. Wonder what the total numbers are for our area?

Homeless camp off Jones Sausage at I 40 going west.
Marcus - 01/29/12 - 14:45

There are tons of them. You just have to know where to took.
Mike - 01/29/12 - 18:18

Homeless camp off I-440 at Lake Boone Trail. Recently exposed from DOT cutting underbrush.
Sta. 14 - 01/29/12 - 21:08

Thay explains its seeming sudden appearance. As well as the fresh mulch scattered all around it!
Legeros - 01/29/12 - 21:14

many camps at exits on I40. Harrison, Chapel Hill and the most famous one at Cary Towne (good for a couple smoke investigations a week).
The Slab - 01/29/12 - 21:19

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ Textile

Morning Hot Shot

01/30/12 84 W, 1 I - + 8 - 2

Or maybe it's a cold shot, since last night's apartment fire on McNeill Street had been extinguished by the time of this photo. We're about a month into external flash mode, using a camera bracket and having pretty good success minimizing the glow of reflective surfaces. (Some scene lighting or other ambient light is required. Plus the higher ISO, lower flash output, and assorted boosts in post-processing.) Slowly, surely getting better. See more 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'?

Post Comment Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Notify: ☐ Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Evening Reading - January 30, 2012

01/30/12 298 W - + 10 - 6

Good evening Raleigh. Let's see, what's the report of new apparatus around the area these days? Cary's received their two new Pierce Velocity rescues and a Pierce Velocity platform. See Lee's photos of those. Wake Forest's received a new Pierce pumper, which we blogged about. Looks quite a bit like Morrisville Engine 3. Durham's received a new haz-mat rig, also blogged about. What else has been delivered lately, or is expected soon?

- Zebulon's second fire station remains on list - *Eastern Wake News* story about the status of Zebulon Fire Department Station 2. The project could resume as early as the second half of this year. The two-bay, 5,000 square-foot station is planned for the north side of town. The location is just west of the water tower on Green Pace Road.

- Verizon and Durham test 911 texting - *News & Observer* story from Sunday. They're testing the technology this week, a collaboration between Verizon Wireless and the Durham Emergency Communication Centers. When would you want text instead of voice? Say at a sports event, when the noise is too loud. See also this *Durham Herald* story.

- South Virginia department regroups after fire hits station - Firehouse.com report out of Danville, of the Brosville Community Volunteer Fire & Rescue. They saw their station burn on Thursday, January 26. The building was unoccupied at the time of the blaze, which destroyed two pieces of apparatus and caused upwards of $1 million in damages. See also news reports from WSLS 10 and GoDanRiver.com. Thanks, Jim!

- Vintage FDNY photo unit helmet for sale - Neat artifact for auction on eBay, though too rich for this blogger's blood. Though it does inspire some ideas... The helmet belonged to Mike Gallagher, an FDNY member from Brooklyn. Pretty interesting. Thanks, Justin!

Mike, Just wanting to follow up on the Fire at Brosville Fire Dept, Outside of Danville, Va. (Blogged 01/30/2012) Investigation has been completed and fire originated in the engine compartment of the heavy rescue truck that was destroyed. They could not determine exactly what in the engine compartment started the blaze (Electrical short, block heater, etc.)
Galax,Va - 02/18/12 - 11:07

Thanks Jim, for the follow-up! Now we wait for tonight's rain and maybe even some snow this weekend.
Legeros - 02/18/12 - 11:08

It's changed up here about a half dozen times in the last 24 hours but right now forcast is 9.9 inches for this area. OOOOOOOOOH one og the perks of Mountain Living.
Galax,Va - 02/18/12 - 17:27

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

Louisburg's New Engine

01/30/12 32 W, 1 I - + 8 - 3

Speaking of new deliveries, here's the Louisburg Fire Department's new Pierce Velocity pumper. And a top-mount at that! Photo from Pierce, via their Flickr site. See larger version.

Except the different blue stripe, this truck is classic cool.
Regular ol doors, top mount pump, full LED lights etc…
Congrats to Louisburg Fire Department.
Buckwheat - 01/31/12 - 11:57

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

Charlotte Station 42 Opens

01/31/12 77 W, 1 I - + 9 - 10

From the Charlotte Fire Department's Flickr site: "On Monday, January 30, 2012, the crew of Engine 42 moved into their new fire station at 5620 Central Avenue in Charlotte. The city began construction of Station 42, an 11,000 square foot, 3-bay fire station in November, 2010, to improve the level of service to the eastside of Charlotte. Engine Company 42, a 4-person crew and Battalion 4 will be responding to the needs of the Eastland corridor."

Charlotte Fire Department photo

11,000 sq.ft.!?!?!!! Wow! Awesome station. Checking out the aerial view from Google Maps shows there are also traffic lights in front of the station. I think that's a great idea and is much needed at several Raleigh stations.
Rescue Ranger - 01/31/12 - 10:50

...but not much larger than Raleigh's Station 28, which has 10,000 square-feet.
Legeros - 01/31/12 - 21:39

Looks like it has a gun tower on top, just like the older prisons have.
Galax,Va - 01/31/12 - 22:05

They may need a gun tower in those parts.
rocket33 - 02/01/12 - 00:18

hey bo bo, those doors are coming to Wake County soon! Stay tuned!
they're coming - 02/01/12 - 11:45

Are you a police officer, Bo Bo? If you ever travel by train, please be safe! I'd hate to have Bo Bo the Po Po get a Boo Boo on the Choo Choo! ...sorry.
Legeros - 02/01/12 - 13:41

I read on Tuesday that CFD Engine 42 went into service at noon on monday the 30th and had ran 14 calls by midnight. Sounds like it was a much needed station.
911 - 02/01/12 - 15:35

Legeros, LOL!!!
Bo Bo - 02/01/12 - 20:40

E42 (former E64) has been in-service for a while running out of station 8 until station 42 was completed, FYI.

BFD1151 - 02/01/12 - 21:01

Wow, 14 calls by midnight! Mostly EMS presumably? How's their ratio of higher- to lower- EMS priority responses?
Legeros - 02/02/12 - 09:06

Just curious, if anybody knows, saw that one of the bays is lettered for "RESCUE 42", is there going to be a new rescue company, or is one the other 2 relocationg?
Steven (Email) - 02/02/12 - 10:52

I believe Rescue 3 will move to FS42. And those 14 runs were done from noon until 19:00 hours (not midnight). A BC is also relocating at FS42.
harkey - 02/02/12 - 22:39

Oh sorry. Thats pretty impressive call running. I have run anywhere from 15 to 20 in a day and maybe 14 in 7 hours during a tornado or snow storm but not on a 60 degree, clear sky day. I wonder if the Chief staff of CFD have considered changing some of their companies to 12 hour shifts?
911 - 02/02/12 - 23:23

Sta. 42 is a much needed infill station. Last year there were over 3,000 incidents withing a 1 mile radius of the station. The press release states they ran 14 calls from noon to 19:00, however that includes 5 "test incidents" making sure that the station alerting system and AVL system were functioning properly now that 42 was actually in the station. The final actual incident count for the first shift was 13 runs, the last being around 1:45am. This will be a minimum most days.

As for Rescue 3 moving to 42, that is still up in the air. It was originally planned when 42 was finally decided to be built, but I don't think it will actually go to 42. As stated above, there were so many incidents so close to the station that it wouldn't be available for the rescue calls or working fires it responds to. The scuttlebutt is either another engine company or moving a ladder company there. I don't think anything will happen until well after the DNC has come and gone.
Drives A Ladder - 02/03/12 - 10:39

Does CFD use AVL to dispatch firetrucks as well as we do here in Wake county for EMS units?
pete (Email) - 02/07/12 - 09:46

Pete, Yes we do use AVL similar to WCEMS, though it is not always the most accurate thing in the world. There are many instances of a unit being chosen as the closest, but others may be a better choice due to terrain, traffic, the routing the computer choses vs. knowing your area and the best cut throughs, whether a company has to go through a neighborhood vs. one that has more open roads to travel, etc. There were several times when I was a FF on an engine company in north Charlotte that we were the working fire company (or not dispatched at all), only to arrive first or 2nd due within sight of the first due, but AVL recognized others as closer.
Drives A Ladder - 02/07/12 - 17:25

DAL is correct. To be effective, AVL is very dependent on a good street network with correct speeds and other impedances (such as one-ways, etc.). Closest doesn't always mean quickest.
Chris - 02/07/12 - 21:36

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

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

Buy Butner's Mack CF Pumper

01/31/12 63 W, 1 I - + 10 - 8

You've always wanted a Mack CF pumper? Here's your chance, as auctioned on GovDeals. Former Butner Public Safety, one 1983 Mack CF pumper with a 1250 GPM pump and 750 gallon tank. And automatic transmission. No double-clutching required! Current bid price is $1,525. Here's a photo from a couple years ago, by Lee Wilson. Nice looking truck. Thanks Thomas!

GovDeals photo

I wouldn't buy it because it IS an automatic!
Rescue Ranger - 01/31/12 - 21:02

It looks like it was well taken care of. It should make a nice truck for a small dept.
911 - 02/01/12 - 15:36

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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Reader Mail - February 2012

02/01/12 557 W - + 6 - 6

Been a while since we opened the mail bag. Enjoy some questions and attempted answers. Also need some input on remembering Raleigh's Mack CF pumpers. See below.

Q: I was looking at photos of the Mack CF engines run by the Raleigh Fire Department. I see ladders on both the pump and curb side. Did they have hard suction on the rigs?
A: ~~Yes, each was~~ Believe only a couple were equipped with hard suction. Two sets, each on the pump-side. Maybe the earliest, the 1970 and 1971 deliveries? That's what my memory recalls, but there's no supporting photos on this RFD apparatus history site. Question for readers: are my memories correct? And what year(s) were the hard hoses removed?

--

Q: I was riding on Interstate 40 the other week, around Exit 312, and saw a ladder truck with the ladder lit with what looked like black lights. The truck was moving, traveling on the interstate. Do you know what department it belonged to?
A: Nothing comes to mind, beyond a possible trick of lighting. But let me ask the blog readers.

--

Q: How can I purchase personal copies of the photos that you've taken of me, at a particular fire or incident or event?
A: You can't! Just mail the names of the files and I will gladly and freely supply the high-resolution images. You can take those and get them printed at your favorite photo printing place.

--

Q: Do you accept tips?
A: Advice is always welcome! If speaking of cold cash, consider a tax-deductible denotation to my favorite charitable organization, the Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society.

--

Q: When will we see a Legeros Fire Blog challenge coin?
A: Funny. How about a North Carolina Firefighters coin instead? There's an interesting concept.

--

Q: Will you be presenting at the state firefighter's convention again this year?
A: Hope to. Proposals have been submitted for both a Raleigh Fire Department Centennial History workshop, as well as a fire photographers panel. Mail me for details on the latter, which is being organized by someone else.

--

Q: Where do you find the time for all this?
A: Small cave in the backyard.

--

Q: How can I post comments on the blog? What are the steps?
A: This one's easy. Simply enter your comment, as well as a name. Then below those fields, enter the letters "fi" in the appropriate box. If you have problems past that point (and some times that happens), mail me for more help.

--

Q: Do you publish letters to the editor on the blog? Or even a guest column?
A: Certainly! But you'll have to sign name, and submit to minor editing if needed. For clarity, grammar, spelling, etc.

--

Q: Do you accept sponsors or advertising on the blog?
A: Not right now.

--

Q: Why not?
A: Too busy to think about it, not poor enough to need it.

--

Q: Could you get and post run totals for each fire department in Wake County last?
A: Good question. And one that I pondered on Facebook a few weeks ago. Guess a call to Wake County Fire Services would get me started, though that's probably just the start. Maybe someone else has already cracked that nut and will share their data.

I'm checking on the hard suction via the father-in-law. Will advise when I know.
A.C. Rich - 02/01/12 - 11:07

Just got the answer… The Macks came with hard suction, but when it was stopped is unknown. Creighton said "that was too long ago" for him to remember!! LOL!
A.C. Rich - 02/01/12 - 11:09

Durham Highway 686, Garner 5467, Morrisville 1553, Stoney Hill 2009-2010 fiscal year 519, Falls 757, holly Springs 1275, Apex 2318, Fuquay-Varina 3318. Thats all I could find on the websites of these departments. Maybe someone from the others not listed will post.
911 - 02/01/12 - 15:32

Wake Forest has 2579 total runs on their website
Mike - 02/01/12 - 20:18

Found a couple examples of Macks with suction hoses:

http://raleighfirehistory.org/photos/rfd..

http://raleighfirehistory.org/photos/erm..

http://raleighfirehistory.org/photos/man..

But curiously, the Macks in these pics do NOT have them, http://raleighfirehistory.org/photos/pa4..

All of those photos date from mid-1970s through 1981.
Legeros - 02/01/12 - 21:33

RDU 1410
smoketamer - 02/03/12 - 01:40

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

Remember personal info?
○ Yes
◉ No

What is District 9?

02/02/12 92 W, 1 I - + 8 - 3

This question was meant to have been included in my reader mail posting yesterday. Answer courtesy of our friends at Wake County EMS.

Q: What is District 9, that I have heard on some calls in Wake County?
A: That's the Advanced Practice Paramedic supervisor. They work 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. daily, and their office is at the Crisis & Assessment Services (CAS) center on the WakeBrook campus on Sunnybrook Road. They don't have a geographic district, and are currently not recommended for dispatch on any call types.

---

for those of us wo dont know, what is an Advanced Practice Paramedic?
What role do they play and what does an Avanced Practice Paramedic Supervisor do?
Not trying to be difficult but curious what their roles are on a daily basis.
Tex - 02/02/12 - 12:46

Here's an overview of the APP program, http://www.wakegov.com/ems/staff/app.htm
Legeros - 02/03/12 - 21:41

Mike, what type vehicles do the APP 's use?? Are these the Chargers I see in alot of the incident photos?? As I was reading the description and purpose of of the APP program I realized that this was a great idea and who, (whom ?) ever thought it up and implemented it needs to be working for NASA as a rocket scientist. Does anyone know if other other Large NC cities such as Greensboro, Charlotte, Durham have programs like this??
Galax,Va - 02/03/12 - 22:18

First vehicles were the Chrgers, however they are currently being phased out for Explorers. WCEMS is currently the only ones in NC with a program like this. THere are others that are similar around the ocuntry, but each one is a little different with a little different focus.
DJ - 02/04/12 - 08:16

DJ. I always assumed the chargers were just a 3rd. Paramedic in a chase vehicle. Thanks for clearing that up..The fact that WCEMS is the first and only department with this program in NC impresses me even more..Thanks for the info,..... Jim
Galav,VA - 02/04/12 - 09:29

Galax, shoot me an email and I can give you some more info…
DJ (Email) - 02/04/12 - 15:49

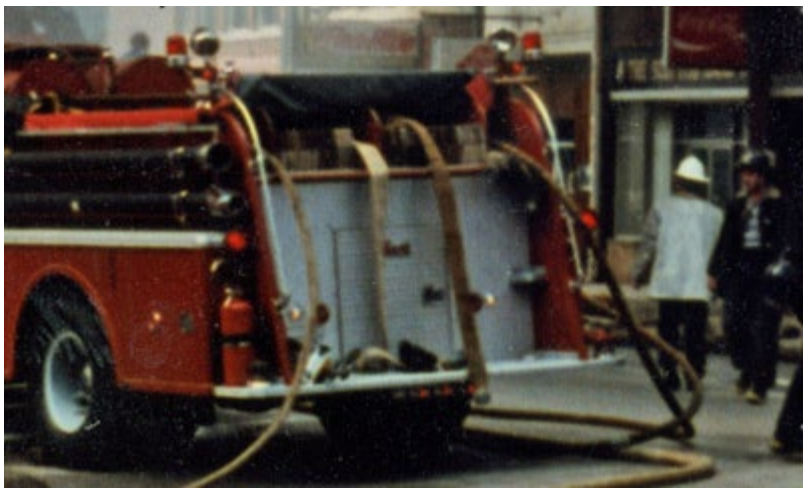
When Raleigh's Macks Had Hard Suction Hoses

02/02/12 276 W, 2 I - + 10 - 3

Were Raleigh's Mack's delivered with hard suction hoses? That was the question posed by a reader and reprinted in yesterday's reader mail posting. First photo search, on this apparatus registry site, found nothing. Well, beyond a couple of the early Macks with nothing hanging pump side, which is where Mr. Blogger remembers the hard hoses being mounted. Second photo search was more successful, and a couple are shown below as located on www.raleighfirehistory.org.

Asking around, the story is something like this. The Mack CF pumpers, first delivered in 1970, were equipped with hard suction hoses. Were they delivered that way? Unsure. Maybe the first couple year's worth, or maybe that hard hose was from the retired/reserve American LaFrance engines? Some remember the Macks delivered with ladders on each side. Some pictures from that era (such as these shots from Public Affairs) seem to show just that.[1]

The two 1970 Macks were first assigned to Engine 1 and Engine 15 (also at Station 1). The top picture probably shows one of them along with Truck 1, in a photo from 1977 or later. Then the city received a 1971 Mack, and then two sets of four of model years 1973 and 1975. By that time, perhaps they determined that more ladders were better than presumably seldom-used suction hose? We'll see what other memories manifest themselves.



[1]Alas, I am at a great disadvantage here. Didn't move to Raleigh until 1983, didn't start chasing fire engines until the end of college in 1988, and didn't join the Raleigh Fire Department until 1989. Thus, no personal memories of deliveries here!

Why does the RFD no longer carry hard suction? Seems like a necessary thing to have…..I mean if FDNY has it then the city likely should have it as well
Latte - 02/02/12 - 11:15

When would Raleigh fire use hard-suction hose?
Rescue Ranger - 02/02/12 - 21:21

The first pumping engine, a 1914 American LaFrance Type 12 triple combination, was equipped with a pair of hard suctions, as shown in a photo from around 1920: http://legeros.com/ralwake/raleigh/appar... Don't know if it was delivered with same, but probably.
Legeros - 02/02/12 - 21:24

When? If the water system ever failed. Look at FDNY following 9/11. The water system was ruined and they had fires burning in the rubble. As a result they used the suction they have on their engines to pump from the rivers. Raleigh might be good but they are not perfect and God forbid something ever happened the hard suction would be a fall back and Im sure the tax payers in the city would appreciate knowing that there is a fall back in case the system breaks. Kind of like the city not having a single tanker….
latte - 02/03/12 - 01:45

The fall back system is all of the pumper/tankers the county departments have along with their drop tanks. They could deliver quite a bit of water to Raleigh in short order … and suck it out of lakes or swimming pools if necessary.
Dave - 02/03/12 - 06:52

Rescue Ranger, ha! I misread your post as "When would Raleigh FIRST use hard-suction hose?" Figured it was a typo. Talk about historian bias!

Latte/Dave, there's an interesting risk management discussion to be had there. Wonder how other comparable cities (southern or otherwise) plot their risk for water system failure? We are well-positioned to utilize county resources, in the proverbial pinch.
Legeros - 02/03/12 - 08:11

Dave-Fair enough, but what happens when they are swamped because if it hits the fan then chances are they will be just as busy and by the time they can get there who knows how many more people will be injured or property lost. Realistically the City of Raleigh could benefit from several tankers placed throughout the city. Charlotte has several tankers in their fleet and areas such as New Hanover County which has developed a county fire department has tankers spread throughout. Wake County could also benefit from a SINGLE county fire department such as New Hanover or Prince Georges. It would make logistics, training, and equipment much easier to manage, realistically though the chances of that happening are slim to none because of pointless politics. We are in the business of helping not bickering.
latte - 02/03/12 - 11:53

Latte, point taken but I believe if it hits the fan that hard no amount of tankers in the city would help mitigate things. Several tankers around the city would be of only minor help in the event of a major water system failure. Their travel times to refill would negate them being of any use IMO. As for a single county department, as much as I hate to say it, you're spot on (both on it being a good idea and the chances of it being between zero and none).
Dave - 02/04/12 - 08:33

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

Remember personal info?
○ Yes
◉ No

Comment:

/ Textile

Exploding This Blog

02/02/12 230 W - + 8 - 4

Open question for morning consideration. If we could explode this blog and remake the thing, would should it look like? The blog as blog has worked fine, so we'll keep that. The blog as discussion forum has had mixed success. Maybe if readers could start their own topics? Or maybe a Facebook interface, that required all participants to be known entities? But how about blog as content portal. That's my real question.

We're pushing six-plus years of postings, and there have been good and even great gems in there. What single or multiple postings are worth setting aside? And maybe making them easier to find. Either through a set of links, or perhaps a graphic treatment of some sort. What are those pieces of collections content? Here are some thoughts:

- TriData reports for Wake County, both 1994 and 2004.
- Raleigh Fire Department historical notes and essays
- Wake County firefighting history notes
- North Carolina fire history
- Pine Knoll Townes
- Con-Agra
- The Tornado
- What else?

Note that you search for these topics, using the **Search** box in the upper-right corner of the home page. There are often multiple postings for even single incidents or events. Thus we'd want a landing page for some of them. As for, say, Raleigh Fire Department history bits, those number in the dozens. Tagging or categories could help there. Food for thought. One more future project.

Kind of confused about what you are really asking.

2redline - 02/02/12 - 14:26

Interesting question in terms of how to manage user/reader interaction. I use Drupal in my day job and freelance Web development work and it's a great framework (content management system) for handling blogs, forums and other types of interactive content. So you may want to look at using an open source CMS framework that contains various functionalities like blogs, forums, user generated content feeds etc. You may already have these elements/modules as part of this framework. I'm not totally sure I'd go for a Facebook integration since FB seems to be so over-used lately for content … of course you can build a readership by integrating with FB more. Good questions there. I read a bunch of other fire service related blogs (Mass Fire Trucks, CMD FD) that all use Facebook pretty heavily for content now. So it is an interesting dilemma to be in.

I will say that I go to your blog daily to get your latest headlines and read through the content and view your images. I'd love to see more image work – maybe a larger scale image treatment or some type of dynamic slideshow on your blog's home page? Just thinking out loud here. I do like how you handle the image galleries.

Expanding your site's search functionality may also be good – another nice thing you can do with a CMS like Drupal is more faceted based searching. You may want to see if you can implement other types of search options on your site's main blog home page so people can drill down more. Like I could search by apparatus type or fire incident date & location. More facets.

Hope this helps. Again all of this is just my humble opinion/2 cents.

Best-

Trevor

Trevor James (Email) (Web Site) - 02/02/12 - 19:57

Redline, my question more simply stated is this: should this blog be anything else, or anything more than what it is? And in particular, is there content that's buried here, that would benefit from any repackaging. Such as, say, fast links to the TriData studies. Or maybe an easily scanned list or compilation of all the RFD history bits.

Trevor, thanks for the thoughtful feedback as well. I have been pondering a move to Wordpress, at some future time. Or even the second-generation version of Pivot, which is my current platform. Maybe someday. For now, it's just some navel gazing about the content and the pathways there.
Legeros - 02/02/12 - 20:19

Now I'm supposed to try and get a good nights sleep after reading the words "navel gazing"?

C'mon, this should be a family-safe blog….
harkey - 02/02/12 - 22:35

Be careful, it's Groundhog Day. You might repeat this moment for eternity, or at least until you woo Andie MacDowell.
Legeros - 02/02/12 - 22:37

I believe like Trevor that you could benefit from the ability to go in different directions. I know you prefer the minimalist design and many open source platforms could provide that. Most of your current site could done in WordPress and it would look the same but with the functionality to expand using plugins. One area that might help users is ability to add tags to articles and well as posting to your Facebook site when articles are published to the site. There is almost always a plugin to do whatever you want.

As far as buried data, yes things are lost in the expanse of your site. Tags and related link type options would be great. This would allow visitors to move around your site finding relevant content as well as organize it. Some people will hop from one post to another just with related links listed under the articles like WRAL.com does. The extra long right column with all the archives from Dec 05 to Jan 12 is impressive but I would love to have a drop down instead, just too much scrolling just to click on Lee's and your photos link. The 200+ hyperlinks in the right and left columns of the current site might be added sensory overload making information even harder to find. That might be something to think about also.
2redline - 02/02/12 - 23:27

Great feedback, Redline. I have modified the right nav, and moved the Archives listing to the bottom. Good call there. I also added a Top Links widget near the top.
Legeros - 02/03/12 - 08:44

Mike, Being born and raised in eastern NC, formerly in the Fire/EMS service, and having a son in RFD. I read your blog and check for new incident photos on your site multiple times daily, and I LOVE your site, It's the only blog I've ever seen, or posted to. Up here few folks "blog" and I suspect most of them are under 21. I ain't never read a face book, So I am totally in the dark when you refer to "exploding the Blog" I ain't got no idea what wordpress,pivot, or drupal is. I guess what Im trying to say is, Some of us are old, we live in a world thats simple not filled with all this tech. stuff. So whatever you do, PLEASE, keep it simple.
Galax,Va - 02/03/12 - 22:55

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

Run Numbers for 2011

02/03/12 98 W - + 6 - 5

As started in this reader mail thread, here are some run numbers from last year. Post or send yours, and we'll update as we go. Other cities and counties around the area or region are welcome to join!

- Apex - 2,391
- Cary - 8,009
- Durham Highway - 686
- Fairview - 1,287
- Falls - 757
- Fuquay-Varina - 3,318
- Garner - 5,467
- Holly Springs - 1,275
- Knightdale - 1,175
- Morrsville - 1,553
- New Hope - 1,629
- Raleigh - 38,151
- Raleigh-Durham Airport - 1,410
- Rolesville - 779
- Stony Hill - 490
- Wake Forest - 2,579
- Western Wake - Just over 700
- Zebulon 1,536

- Wake County EMS - 80,086
- Durham - 30,803
- Greensboro - 30,393 (FY11)
- Winston-Salem - 25,838 (FY11)

Stony Hill operates on a fiscal year: FY 2010-2011 = 507; FY 2009-2010 = 519. The data for the CY must be from the county…??
A.C. Rich - 02/03/12 - 12:51

According to an email that I recieved the other week, Apex ran 2391.
AFD FF - 02/03/12 - 12:57

My error… Stony Hill = 490 for the calendar year 2011.
A.C. Rich - 02/03/12 - 13:13

Mount Holly Fire/Rescue-1525 runs. E33 from sub-station ran 711 of these.
rocket33 - 02/03/12 - 16:02

Where is Mt Holly?
Mike - 02/03/12 - 17:31

Google is your friend. Mount Holly, NC, is in Gaston County.
Legeros - 02/03/12 - 19:46

Does anyone have the top 5 run numbers for eng companies in Raleigh for this past year?

Mike - 02/03/12 - 19:58

Cary ran right at 8000
runs - 02/03/12 - 20:12

Wake County EMS had 80,086 ambulance runs

Raleigh's busiest engines: E3 (2574), E12 (2442), E11 (2213), E1 (2018), E15 (1919)
Legeros - 02/03/12 - 20:38

Mike,
Where is a place I could find that shows the amount of career staff his department has and specifics there in?
Staff - 02/04/12 - 11:37

Which specific department?
Legeros - 02/04/12 - 11:39

Knightdale Public Safety ran 1175 for the year
KPS - 02/04/12 - 21:45

Fairview ran 1287 for the year
FFD - 02/07/12 - 19:43

New Hope ran 1,629 for the year
Doppler - 02/12/12 - 10:12

Simply out of curiosity I'd like to see the run numbers for Durham Highway, Falls, Western Wake, and New Hope with the calls into the city limits excluded.
Rescue Ranger - 02/12/12 - 13:17

Yes, such parsed run numbers would be interesting, as would slicing and dicing across all department data for 2012. Would make a lively discussion on many fronts and angles, as system-wide observations were made and conclusions drawn. The challenge is the number of stakeholders and their hierarchies of needs/wants/biases and such. (I am presently not a steakholder, though I might be holding a hamburger for lunch a little later.) Maybe a "bring your data" roundtable some day, some where. Do it in person, and have a time doing it.
Legeros - 02/12/12 - 14:18

Western Wake was a little under half or so auto aid to Raleigh to my recollection. About 300 calls. The other 400ish were in the county. Not as accurate as you may want but if someone within has more detailed information please correct me.
ww - 02/12/12 - 22:26

@ww- Curious to know what the amount of calls that were run into Morrisville and Cary? I know that your call volume with Cary has gone down quite a bit now that Western Wake statoin 2 is out of CAD.
Spanky - 02/13/12 - 06:27

Station 15 ran 1998 calls if you add HM-2's calls
Hand - 02/13/12 - 20:29

Western Wake ran maybe 10 auto aid calls to Cary now that station 2 is closed, most auto aid district was given to Morrisville and Swift Creek. As for the number run in Morrisville, does it really matter. The pager goes off, the truck hits the road. But if we are to look at it from this angle for ww then we should do the same for all. How many of Morrisvilles 1500 were to apex, cary or durham. how many of swift creeks were to garner fariview raleigh and cary. How many of fairviews were to fuquay garner cary etc. It is unfair to pose that question since each county station is a part of the system as a whole. We respond to each others areas because thats what the run card dispatches. Or perhaps units were tied up. Those 400 county calls were legitimate runs, not a closest unit "race" . Look at everyones run numbers. Are we to question specific stations for a reason. Stony Hill 490, how many were in Wake Forest or Bay Leaf. Im not picking anything here with you spanky, just saying the question is irrelevant. If you didnt receive ww then it would just be added call volume for apex or durham highway
ww - 02/14/12 - 17:58

@WW- I can see where you might have gotten that I was trying to start some kind of "you should not exist" B.S. I was really only wondering. I actually think the west side of the county works great together since there is a lot of mutual aid training and general respect amongst the

departments (this includes City of Durham since they run with Morrisville a lot). I must be honest and say I don't think the closet unit response is a "race" though. I think it is a legitamite automatic aid response. I know Morrisville responds closet unit to Cary and Durham quite a bit. Cary even pseudo dispatches Morrisville via the alpha numeric pager if Cary gets the call first since there is such a lag time between the two dispatch centers. Really was just curious, no disrespect.
Spanky - 02/14/12 - 21:47

No disrespect taken, just justifying existence and also shining light on call volume sources.I agree that the West side uses its mutual aid neighbors quite well. East side could take some notes. Share the sand box and take some notes from others
ww - 02/15/12 - 17:52

Anyone have any clue how many calls eastern wake ran
ew - 02/15/12 - 17:54

for those wanting specifics on Western Wake's call volume from 2011 here you go:

District 19: 238
City of Raleigh: 355
Morrisville: 85
Cary: 21
Apex: 1
RDU: 1
Other Wake County/Non-Municpal: 10 (this would be Swift Creek, Durham Highway, etc)

Total 711 Runs

A lot of calls that are within the City of Raleigh are areas that were annexed in the past such as I-40 between Harrison and Cary Towne. In other parts of I-40 it gets a Cary FD, WW, Morrisville response based on location and then it's a guessing game to who's district it's actually in until we all get there and sort it out. The rest of the calls into the city were areas identified as Western Wake being able to provide a closest unit, thus helping the citizens receive the most prompt service they can.
shevais - 02/20/12 - 16:00

If WW wasnt there then think of how long it would take for a fire truck to get to some of these calls and how long it would take for another mutual aid dept. to get to Cary, Mo-ville, or where have you. Keep up the good work WESTERN WAKE.
911 - 02/20/12 - 18:20

Does I-40 have any Fire-tax value?
No Tax Value - 02/21/12 - 22:46

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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Mystery Steps

02/04/12 24 W, 1 I - + 4 - 7

No clues on this one (yet). Someone will probably peg the thing in a moment.

KTC?
911 - 02/04/12 - 12:14

Not KTC.
Legeros - 02/04/12 - 14:16

behind station 1
EMT - 02/04/12 - 14:28

Not behind Station 1
Legeros - 02/04/12 - 15:32

It's a training course of some kind. With the steps and the ditch-tube behind it (what do you call those things?), it looks like a police POPAT course.
rfburns - 02/04/12 - 21:02

Training center on Garner Rd between Garner and Clayton? I think its training for WCSO Maybe?!!?
Zack A - 02/05/12 - 22:36

Good guesses! Any confirmations?
Legeros - 02/06/12 - 08:19

Wake Tech?
Zack A - 02/06/12 - 08:50

It is near a school! And it's not in Raleigh…
Legeros - 02/06/12 - 08:53

Durham FD's Training Academy – maybe close to the burn bldg? ...OK, I'll keep trying… Let's see where has Mikey been lately. Mmmm, somewhere in Sanford?
A.C. Rich - 02/06/12 - 11:00

Old movie theater in Sanford, pretty sure……
JJL - 02/06/12 - 16:16

Not in Raleigh. Not outside Wake County.
Legeros - 02/06/12 - 17:00

Is the 'peg' clue a reference to Steely Dan or 'Married With Children' or neither?
scott warner - 02/06/12 - 18:51

Neither.

Review the clues, and perhaps think both "where has Mike been" and "what would be near that Mike would be seeking?"
Legeros - 02/06/12 - 18:53

Factory in RTP that makes prosthetic legs. (The steps are used for quality control testing)
Galax,Va - 02/07/12 - 01:26

No takers on confirming any of the above guesses? Would it help if I added… it's in Wake County, but just barely.
Legeros - 02/07/12 - 22:21

I guess I will have to give it up, if no one's either found the thing in person to verify, or used Google Street View. The latter will show it, though from a different angle.
Legeros - 02/08/12 - 07:53

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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

Post Comment Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

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

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

The Gregson Street Guillotine Again

02/04/12 121 W - + 4 - 7

Been a couple years since we posted about Dave Statter's favorite bridge in Durham, which we first featured in this posting in October 2009. The big yellow signs read 11 feet 8 inches, but that doesn't deter drives who attempt to squeeze their tall trucks (or trailers) under the railroad bridge beside Brightleaf Square. (And again, let's plug for Satisfaction Restaurant and Bar, home of the Triangle's best pizza, says me. Bought a large pepperoni with light cheese just this afternoon...) The camera is operated by Jurgen Henn, and is featured on his web site 11foot8.com. Below is a video clip of a semi truck that didn't make it under. The crash is number 46 since April 2008.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Notify: ☐ Yes, send me email when someone replies.

LED Rung Lighting on Aerial Apparatus

02/04/12 74 W, 1 I - + 9 - 2

A reader recently asked about an aerial ladder seen on Interstate 40, with what looked like black lights illuminating the ladder. Sounded strange, and Mr. Blogger thought it might've been a trick of lighting. Turns out at least one aerial apparatus manufacturer is adding LED rung lighting. See this Pierce 100-foot aluminum ladder product page for more information, including the below photo. That's probably the answer. Thanks Brian!

Smeal also includes blue lights on the rungs
268 - 02/04/12 - 17:58

Its a long way off but Mt Olive FD in Wayne County has a Ferrara Mid Mount 100' Platform with blue LED lighting going up the ladder, it is a 2008/9 model.
car3550 - 02/04/12 - 18:29

Fayetteville Truck 6 has the same lighting, also a new Pierce.
MF - 02/06/12 - 15:56

Did CFD's new L3 come that way?
Duda (Email) - 02/06/12 - 17:04

The Krispy Kreme Challenge

02/04/12 158 W, 1 I - + 9 - 2

Locals are familiar with this event, but here's a primer for our visiting readers. Annual charity event. Organized by North Carolina State University students. Participants run 2.5 miles from the campus bell tower to Krispy Kreme, eat a dozen raised glazed donuts, and run back to the bell tower. Hilarity and/or nausea ensues. Here's a *News & Observer* slide show with a few hundred images, started at daybreak.

This year race's, which raised over $100,000 for the North Carolina Children's Hospital, attracted quite a few curious characters. Left to right, top to bottom: Elvis, Jesus, Kal-El, and Jake and Elwood. Photo credit to Mike Legeros, who arrived about 8:30 a.m. at the donut shop. He left an hour later and with his shoes still clean. Might've inhaled a few too many dough molecules, however. He's been talking in third-person all night. **See all of Mike's photos**.

Morning Reading - February 5, 2012

02/05/12 338 W - + 5 - 5

Good morning Raleigh. Still compiling run numbers from last year for Wake County fire departments, as posted last week. Still getting dribs and drabs of data. Wonder how other the "big boys" did, Charlotte, Greensboro, Wilmington, etc.? And do any counties issue annual reports, itemizing fire department runs? Meanwhile, here's a short list of Sunday reading.

- Wake County Fire Academy #4 - Photographer Lee Wilson recently spent some time with the latest fire academy members as they finished their training ahead of last week's graduation. His photos include drills at the Wake County Fire Training Center and a live burn in Apex. The eleven members graduated Thursday in an evening ceremony at the Wake County Commons building. The academy started in August. The eleven graduates, each already affiliated with a fire department, completed the program with certifications as/in Firefighter II, Haz-Mat Operations Plus, EMT Basic, ICS, Firefighter Rescue, Firefighter Survival, Rescue Technician, and Fit Testing. Congratulations to all!

- Winston-Salem firefighters rescue two children from house fire - FireNews.net story, including a WFMY video segment, about Thursday's house fire on Trellis Lane. Engine 3 personnel rescued two children, ages three and nine from their bedrooms. They were transported to Wake Forest Baptist Memorial Hospital, and are in critical condition but improving. Capt. Scott Gauldin from Engine 3, who has a three year-old, talks on camera about the powerful experience.

- Fire destroys Myrtle Beach welcome center - Firegeezer story about a Friday morning fire in Horry County, S.C. He has a link to a *Herald* news story, which is short but includes a heck of a good slideshow. Photojournalist Steve Jessmore provides a good all-angles perspective. There's was even a dalmatian on scene, shown sitting dutifully in the front seat of someone's vehicle.

- Mystery steps - Forgot to mention the prize for this one, free subscription to the blog. Might be time for a clue, as well. Don't want any obstacles to good guessing!

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

Post Comment Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Raleigh Police Officer Stable After Shooting At Stand-Off

02/07/12 166 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

As this morning's *News & Observer* story reports, Raleigh Police Department Officer A. W. Young was struck multiple times last night, when the department's tactical team attempted to make entry into a residence in northwest Raleigh where a man had barricaded himself that morning. The incident started about 11:00 a.m. with a call received from a man threatening suicide at 9321 Bothwell Street. Police and emergency units were on scene all day. The shooting occurred just before 7:30 p.m. Officer Young, 30, was pulled away and treated on scene by a tactical paramedic (among presumably others). He was transported to WakeMed and is reported in stable condition. Gunfire was not returned, and police made entry at approximately 11:00 p.m. The suspect was found inside, and deceased of an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound. News 14 reports this morning that Young, a member of the department since 2005, is expected to make a full recovery. See also: WRAL, WTVD.

News & Observer photo

Very glad that Officer Young is going to be ok.

Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR (Email) (Web Site) - 02/07/12 - 13:27

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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NCSFA Promotional Poster

02/07/12 86 W, 1 I - + 4 - 3

This impressive poster made it debut at the NCAFC's Mid-Winter Conference in Concord last week. Produced by the North Carolina State Fireman's Association, it features photos by Yours Truly. The printed version measures 18 by 24 inches. Culled from last year's highlights, the depicted departments include Apex, Bay Leaf, Cary, Durham Highway, Fairview, Holly Springs, Morrisville, Raleigh, Stony Hill, and Western Wake. Plus Wake County and Johnston County EMS agencies, NC USAR Task Force 8, and the NC Forest Service. Miss anyone? Click to enlarge:

How can we purchase one Mikey?
JJL - 02/07/12 - 22:22

Honestly, that question didn't occur to me until five minutes ago. Let me make some inquiries.
Legeros - 02/07/12 - 22:25

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

Zebulon Fire Chief Named Fire Chief of the Year

02/08/12 308 W, 2 I - + 13 - 5

Also speaking of last week's North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs' Mid-Winter Conference, Zebulon Fire Chief Sidney Perry received the 2012 Career Fire Chief of the Year Award. It was presented by Wilson Fire Chief Don Oliver, who was last year's recipient. The 2012 Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year was awarded to Fire Chief Freddy Johnson of the Stoney Point Fire Department in Cumberland County.

Chief Perry, shown below with his son Asst. Chief Chris Perry, is currently the longest-serving member of the Zebulon Fire Department with 44 years and counting. He served as Asst. Chief from 1978 to 1980, and as Fire Chief from 1980 to present. He was the town's first career Fire Chief, and has transformed the fire department from an all-volunteer organization to an ISO Class 3/9 rated department with 14 career members and 16 volunteers.

Over the course of his career, he's served as President, Vice President, and Secretary of the Wake County Firefighters Association. He's held many positions on committees with the Wake County Fire Commission. He's also served on the North Carolina State Firemen's Association board in 1988.

In addition to his extensive fire service participation, his community involvement has included serving the town of Zebulon as a police officer, public works employee, and Public Safety Director for Fire and Police. Before his appointment as a career fire chief, he served the town for many years as a U.S. Postal Service Letter Carrier. He's served in the North Carolina National Guard, and is very active with the Zebulon Baptist Church

He has also inspired his sons Chris and Adam, who have both pursued careers in the fire service. They're members of the Johnston County Fire Marshal's office and the Raleigh Fire Department, respectively. Congratulations, Chief!

Congrats Chief Perry!
TTaylor - 02/08/12 - 09:00

Congratulations! Well deserved Chief Perry!
A.C. Rich - 02/08/12 - 14:08

Eastern Wake News story on same, http://www.easternwakenews.com/2012/02/1..
Legeros - 02/12/12 - 10:31

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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

University Chevrons

02/08/12 41 W, 5 I - + 10 - 2

Vehicles of the North Carolina State University Fire Protection Department. Parked in the rear of the campus public safety center at 2610 Wolf Village Way. Top to bottom, left to right: truck, truck, car, truck, van. Click to enlarge:

You would think that whoever does graphics for a living would be able to lay it out so that the last two letters of the words "marshal" aren't obliterated by a Ford logo.

Paul - 02/09/12 - 08:46

Why not just remove the logo?

Olson - 02/09/12 - 12:50

Can anyone from RFD comment on the working relationship with Campus Fire Marshal's office? Didn't know NCSU had such a thing.

Mitch - 02/10/12 - 19:11

This posting from July provides an overview of the NCSU Fire Marshal's office, http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we.. Scroll to the reader comments.

This posting from August 2006 depicts earlier vehicles, plus some historical information on the school's fire protection in the 1900s, http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..

Legeros - 02/10/12 - 20:16

Name: (real name preferred)

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Web Site: (optional)

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- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

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Hide email: ☐ Yes, hide my email address.

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Raleigh Fire Museum Open This Saturday, Feb. 11

02/08/12 159 W, 2 I - + 7 - 5

Looking for a fun activity on Saturday? Visit the Raleigh Fire Museum, which is open on Saturday, February 11, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The museum is located at 105 Keeter Center Drive, in a classroom trailer at the Keeter Training Center. It's open on the second Saturday of each month.

The centerpiece is the 1870 fire alarm bell that hung in a clock tower on Fayetteville Street and alerted the volunteer fire companies. Other displays include a photo history of city fire apparatus, from horse-drawn hose wagons to the modern pumping engines.

Pay a visit! Meet a historian! Yours Truly will be staffing same. There's no charge for admission. And there's parking *and* restrooms available. Please note that the city's collection of antique fire apparatus is housed elsewhere, at Fire Station 28 at 3500 Forestville Road in northeast Raleigh. That's also a great place to visit! To learn more, visit www.raleighfirehistory.org.

IMG_3519

2011-06-14-rfd-museum-29-mjl

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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

Post Comment | Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Vintage Ladder Truck Serves Sign Shop

02/09/12 77 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

Photographer Lee Wilson captured this unusual sight yesterday, a 1976 American LaFrance aerial ladder in the service of a sign and lighting company from Kannapolis, NC. It's pictured in action at a shopping center on Wake Forest Road at Six Forks Road. The 100-foot aerial formerly served San Jose, CA. There's no word, however, if they knew the way there. I've been away too long. See more photos.

Lee Wilson photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Post Comment Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Tanker Fire in South Carolina

02/09/12 108 W, 1 I - + 5 - 4

Here's your Thursday hot shot, from a tanker fire Tuesday in Honea Path, SC. The fierce-looking fire was extinguished in about 15 minutes. The vehicle left the road, overturned, and its contents were ignited by a felled power line. Looks like seven fire departments were on scene, along with a haz-mat team from the county, Anderson County. The county also has a flat-bed truck equipped with equipment for spraying non-alcohol ~~alcoholic~~ [talk about responder safety!] foam, which helped quickly extinguish the blaze. Richard Kelly took the picture, shown in this *Independent Mail* story. Also see this Firegeezer posting.

Richard Kelly/Independent Mail photo

Mike, How about a "caption this photo" for the guy standing there? I'll start "uhhhh…1st due Engine from Command…can you advise ETA?"
AB - 02/09/12 - 18:47

Call Leroy, cause he aint seen nothing like this
Rob Mitchell - 02/10/12 - 18:49

Duh??? Where did my Engine Go??
Galax,Va - 02/10/12 - 19:47

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ Textile

Historical Society Changing Name to Raleigh Fire Museum

02/09/12 208 W, 1 I - + 9 - 3

Hear ye! Hear ye! This month, in the year of our anniversary twenty-twelve, the Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society is changing its name to the Raleigh Fire Museum. What's the scoop? Let's start with the backstory...

The historical society was created in the fall of 2008, and was incorporated with the state in the spring of 2010. Later that year, federal tax-exempt status was granted. Given this growing history, we have not entered into the name change lightly.

First and foremost, the new name will help eliminate confusion between our private 501(c)(3) charitable organization and the City of Raleigh fire department. This is an important distinction to draw for fundraising and with regard to donations.

Additionally, the name is a better brand and is more representative of our goals. Though we've opened and are operating the first incarnation of the Raleigh Fire Museum, our long-term goal is a larger, permanent facility.

Stay tuned for more, from monthly museum openings to special events for our centennial year this year. Thanks for your support, and hollar if you have any questions. Visit **www.raleighfirehistory.org** for contact information, to learn more, or make a donation.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Morning Reading - February 10, 2012

02/10/12 361 W - + 8 - 3

Good morning Raleigh. We've posted run numbers from nearly fire department in Wake County. Last week's blog posting has been updated a couple times, thanks to reader input and a few queries. Thanks everyone. Still curious about totals from, say, Asheville, Charlotte, Chapel Hill, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Greenville, Rocky Mount, Wilson, Winston-Salem, and Wilmington.

- Raleigh eyes new way forward for public safety needs - *News & Observer* story about this week's City Council decision to consider a moving forward with a new emergency communications center on a property other than the earlier planned high-rise public safety center. The proposed new location is just north of the Beltline off Raleigh Boulevard, formerly part of the Westinghouse site. First step is a site assessment.

- Lenoir County ambulance collision - FireNews has posted photos and a story from the Kinston *Free Press* about a FIRSTMED ambulance that overturned Wednesday evening on N.C. 11 south. The driver and his passenger and coworker were airlifted to a Greenville medical center. Reports this subsequent *Free Press* story, the driver was treated and released that night. The second person remained in the hospital Thursday in good condition.

- Responder safety taken to new level - Yesterday's blog posting about Tuesday's tanker fire in South Carolina made at least one reader laugh, recounting the use of non-alcoholic foam. The posting has since been corrected and annotated. Thanks Glenn!

- Texas firefighters say cuts put them and public at risk - From a reader, here's an interesting and well-produced WFAA story out of Irving, TX, that looks at the impact of budget cuts in the fire department. Notable is a detailed examination of arrival versus attack times, and how four-person crews are impacted when they're riding with only three people. Stories like these seem common these days. But they're perhaps not new, and not unique to our current climate. Municipalities must always weigh a variety of needs with a fixed pool of resources. Thanks James.

- Can emergency services lean on a manufacturing model? - Thoughtful question posted by Firegeezer contributor Mike Ward, and with a thoughtful response from reader Sean Brooks. See what you think.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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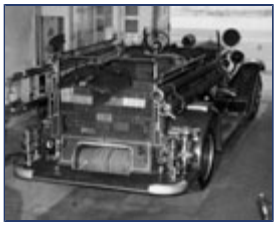
To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

Looking Closer: Station 1, Circa 1949

02/10/12 92 W, 4 I - + 5 - 6

For your Friday enjoyment, let's take a closer look at the photo inside Fire Station 1 at 412 South Salisbury Street circa 1949. Engine house built as Station 2 in 1914. Engine is a 1936 American LaFrance 400 Series. Auxiliary truck is a 1948 Ford F3. Notice the dress caps. That was standard attire from 1912 until about 1950, when the first fire helmets were purchased. Believe they had "globe coats," however. That looks like one lying or perhaps laying on the hose bed of the engine. Courtesy North Carolina State Archives. Click to enlarge:



Now thats how you pack hose neatly

Rob Mitchell - 02/10/12 - 18:55

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Mystery Spur

02/10/12 39 W, 1 I - + 7 - 3

Seen somewhere in the Capital City today. Here's a hint, it's near other railroad tracks. Just don't try to tell which way the train went by looking at its tracks.

S Blount St, near the dead end?
http://www.bing.com/maps/?v=2&cp=pyt12b8..
rfburns - 02/10/12 - 21:33

That didn't take long!
Legeros - 02/10/12 - 21:58

I was right?! Ha! I finally guessed one of these! I really had no idea. I just browsed Bing/Google for some spurs in the "railroad" areas of town. I was initially thinking the Capital/Hodges St area, but wandered down to Blount and thought those buildings (from above) looked like your picture.
rfburns - 02/10/12 - 22:27

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

This Morning's House Fire on Bertie Drive

02/10/12 87 W, 1 I - + 7 - 6

News 14 has posted a few seconds of footage of this morning's house fire at 312 Bertie Drive. Engine 7 was first on scene and found the 1,562 square-foot structure fully-involved. One-story with a full basement, built 1987. Dispatched at 2:12 a.m., the fire was controlled at 2:59 a.m. Units on scene included E7, E3, E1, E13, L4, R2, B2, A1, C10, C20, EMS 11, T1, D1. The vacant house was destroyed, and the cause was determined as arson. Click to watch the video clip:

This is very fortunate that no one is injured. Following safety guidelines strictly, can keep our life 100% safe. We should always follow some basic rules for fire protection, which I've mentioned below.

1. Install Smoke Detectors at your home and work places
2. Always be careful while cooking
3. Drop and roll: if fire catches your clothes then never run. STOP running and roll over to reduce the flame
4. Use safety guard for electric devices.
5. Match box is always for adults' use.
6. Do not use elevators in fire affected building. Always use stairs and emergency exits.
7. Consult with a **Fire Safety Expert**.

Ross Brown (Web Site) - 02/13/12 - 04:32

Who would have thought that you would have to deal with spam on your blog Mike? I wish I could be 100% safe! That might put us out of a job!

Bob P. - 02/13/12 - 11:30

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

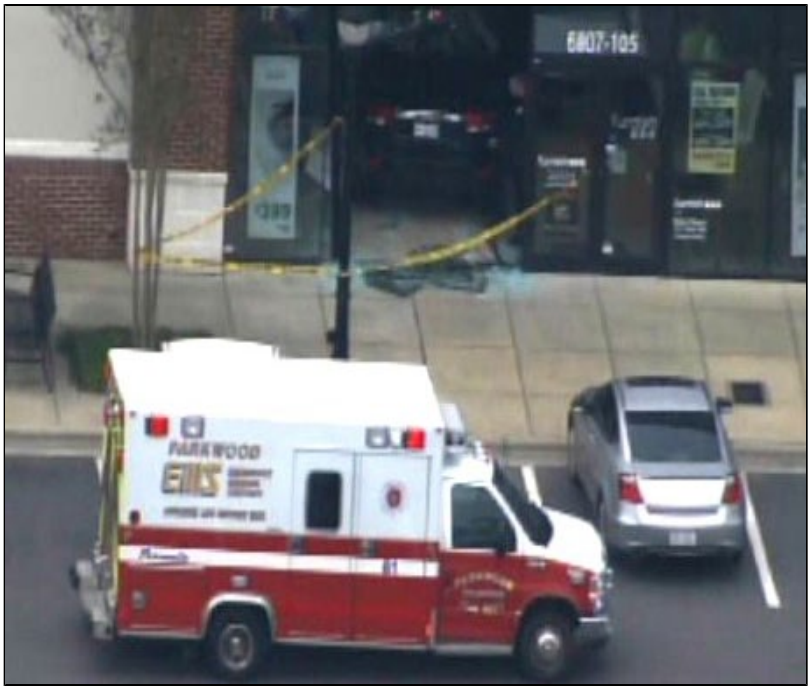
Comment:

/ Textile

SUV Versus Storefront

02/10/12 66 W, 1 I - + 8 - 2

WTVD has posted aerial photos of this afternoon's vehicle accident in Durham, where an SUV entered a furniture store on Fayetteville Street across from the Streets at Southpoint. See more photos. No one was hurt, notes this *Herald-Sun* story. The cause was cited as a floor mat apparently tangling with the accelerator and brake. How's that for couching the story?



WTVD photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

Marine Walking Stays at Station 1

02/11/12 149 W, 3 I - + 9 - 4

Meet Mac McQuown, a 50 year-old Marine who is walking across the United States. He's raising awareness of Veterans causes. His goal is to visit the state capitols of 48 states. He started walking on September 11, 2011, at his home in Stafford, VA. He's logged over 765 miles to date. His journey is expected to take a number of years, and mere 15,000 miles. He's been staying at firehouses along the way, and last night stayed in downtown Raleigh with "B" platoon members at Fire Station 1. See photos of their chicken dinner and McQuown's custom cart. Or read about Project FOOT, where you can sponsor a mile of Mac's walk. We'll add details on Mac's coming destinations. Pay a visit. He's a nice guy with a great cause.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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

Post Comment Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

Wake County Firefighters Association Quarterly Supper & Meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 21

02/11/12 118 W - + 6 - 4

The winter supper and meeting of the Wake County Firefighter's Association will be held on Tuesday, February 21, at the Wake Tech Public Safety Center, 321 Chapanoke Road, Raleigh. Please note the date change, one week later than Valentine's Day. Spend that night with your sweetie! Supper on the 21st will be served at 6:30 p.m., with the quarterly meeting following eating. In other WCFA news, the application period has opened for a pair of $500 scholarships sponsored by the Association. These annual awards are awarded one to a Wake County firefighter and one to a Wake County firefighter's dependent. See their web site for more details. See you at the meeting.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Upcoming RAPS Race, Raleigh Police Memorial Karting

02/12/12 213 W - + 9 - 6

The Raleigh Area Public Safety (RAPS) Racing League is an inter-agency kart racing league designed to bring public safety professionals together in a fun, team-building atmosphere. They have a couple upcoming events:

RAPS Race
Friday, April 27
3:00 p.m. qualifying
6:00 p.m. race starts
Rush Hour Karting in Garner
5335 Raynor Rd, one mile off Hwy 70 East.

- Anyone can drive these karts. There is no prerequisite or racing/karting experience required.
- Qualifying sessions begin at 3:00 pm.
- 90-minute race starts at 6:00 pm.
- The fastest ten teams from qualifying will enter the 90 minute final race.
- Any and aAll public safety agencies are invited to enter a team of four drivers.
- Entry fee is just $150 per team due on race day.
- Team drivers alternate every 10 minutes during pit stops.
- Track information at www.rushhourkarting.com.
- Entire fleet of brand new karts arrived last week!
- Great event to watch even if you don't want to drive.

Raleigh Police Memorial Foundation Event
Wednesday, February 15
4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Rush Hour Karting in Garner
5335 Raynor Rd, one mile off Hwy 70 East.

- Normal Rush Hour business operations with half of all proceeds going to RPD fund raiser.
- Funds support the families of fallen Raleigh Police Officers.
- More information at www.rpdmemorial.org

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

Remember personal info?
○ Yes
◉ No

Comment: / Textile

What Makes News News?

02/12/12 208 W - + 11 - 4

How about some media studies for our Sunday morning? Let's look at a nifty posting from the media relations blog Mr. Media Training. The title is **The 11 Things That Journalist Consider Newsworthy**. The subject is self-explanatory. What does the news consider news? The answer is more conceptual than specific. As author Brad Phillips cites in categories:

1. Conflict.
2. Local.
3. Incident.
4. Extremes or superlatives.
5. New.
6. Timely and relevant.
7. Scandal.
8. David versus Goliath.
9. Incompetence.
10. Surprising.
11. Hypocrisy.

Read the posting and then we'll continue. Finished reading? Good. Next question, how do you feel about that list? Or maybe a better question is this: do you feel any different about the media, looking through a more conceptual lens? Based on comments both heard in person and read on this blog, there's isn't a lot of consistent love for The News.

But isn't "news" really just a function of core human communication? Meaning, it's one of the core reasons that people talk to each other. Can you take this list and apply it interpersonally? Maybe so. Think about what drives talking between people. What piques another person's interest, and what draws their attention away from themselves? Often, it's those things listed above. Your thoughts? Let's talk about talking!

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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

Have You Talked About Fire Safety Today?

02/12/12 184 W - + 6 - 6

Even though it's Sunday, chances are you'll probably talk to someone outside the station today. Maybe at the grocery store. Maybe after a call. Maybe someone stopping and asking for directions. Odds favor at least one casual conversation between a person on your crew and a civilian. In the course of your conversation-- maybe two minutes of small talk, maybe five minutes of passing interest in your apparatus-- will you talk to them about fire safety? Think about it.

Those few minutes that happen each day, and maybe a few times each day/each shift. What a great opportunity to say "hey, I noticed you have a young child, do you mind if I ask you about your smoke detectors?" Maybe you'll learn that they haven't checked their batteries in an age. Maybe they'll admit they don't even think they have one. And it ain't nothing but a thing to give them one, or get them one, right? Might save a life. And just from a conversation, and one you're already having. Think about it.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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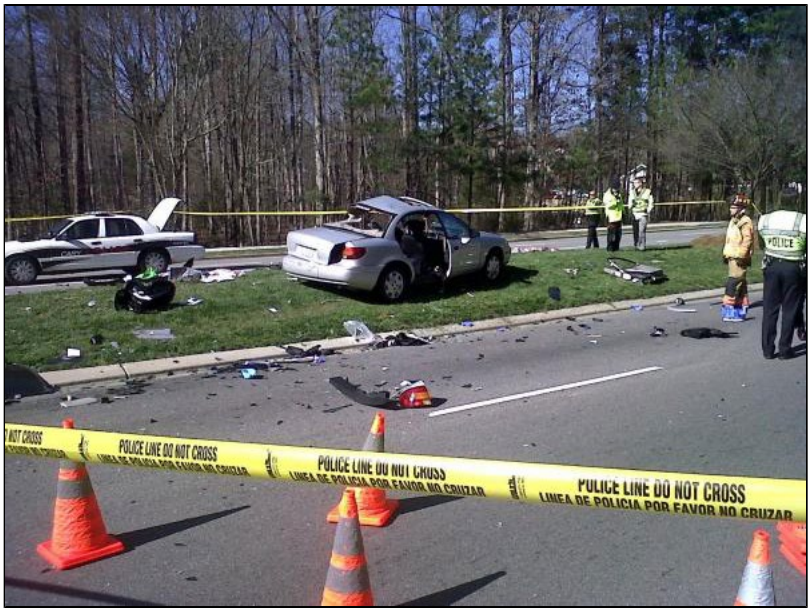
This Morning's Vehicle Accident in Cary

02/12/12 76 W, 1 I - + 10 - 3

WRAL has posted this picture of this morning's motor-vehicle accident scene on West Chatham Street at SW Cary Parkway. Cary Fire (E4, R4, L5, B1, L3 as E40 covering E4), Cary EMS (EMS 51, EMS 55, EMS 52, D5), Apex EMS (EMS 41) among units on scene. Two fatalities, subsequently reported. Occurred around 10:15 a.m. The roadway is still closed, as of 12:30 p.m. See also WTVD story and NBC 17 story.



WRAL photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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(Register your username / Log in)

Friday's Apparatus Accident in Surry County

02/12/12 123 W, 1 I - + 9 - 6

Two members of the Mountain Park Volunteer Fire Department in Surry County were injured early Friday evening, when their 1995 Freightliner tanker overturned on Zephyr Mountain Road. They were responding to a fire when the accident occurred on the narrow road. The driver reportedly lost control of the truck due to shifting water after breaking. The truck left the roadway, tipped on its side, and slid down a hill and over a narrow bridge. The two firefighters aboard were transported to Wake Forest Baptist Hospital. They were treated for non-life threatening injuries. Both were wearing seatbelts. Read more in this digitriad.com story, which has also been posted to FireNews.net.

Notice that the best part of this was that they were treated for non-life threatening injuries due to the fact that they were wearing seat belts!! I am glad to hear that everyone is alive.

Bob P. - 02/12/12 - 23:00

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Vintage Rolesville Apparatus

02/13/12 35 W, 3 I - + 7 - 6

For your Monday evening enjoyment, here are three photos of Rolesville fire apparatus circa 1980 or 1981. We'll let readers identify the trucks, and tell about their histories. Thanks Bert! Click to enlarge:

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

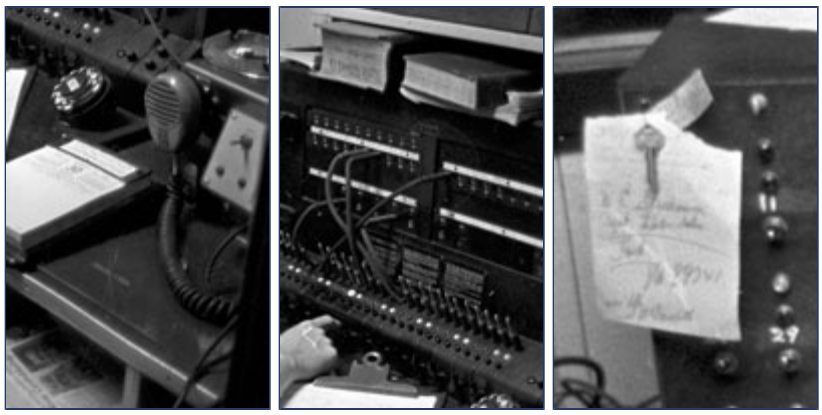
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

Looking Closer: Raleigh Police Department Dispatcher, 1960

02/14/12 54 W, 5 I - + 11 - 5

For your Valentine's Day enjoyment, here's the ~~fire~~ police department dispatcher in 1960. [Rest of original posting deleted, as it referenced the fire department dispatcher history. We later learned that this was a photo of the police dispatcher.] Click to enlarge:



News & Observer photos.

Awesome photo Mike! Thanks for sharing! :)
Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR (Email) (Web Site) - 02/14/12 - 08:57

The thick book on top of the console is a City Directory which lists every business in Raleigh by address. We used those in the 9-1-1 Center until the late `90s/early `00s. Today we use a digital copy of a cross-reference guide.
John W. Franks (Email) (Web Site) - 02/14/12 - 09:02

Visit Olivia Raney Local History library off Poole Road, and they have city directories on the shelves dating to the 1900s. They were bound books like modern phone books, with alphabetical listings for all residents, businesses, and organizations. Then a business listing section. And also a list of all streets and block numbers, and business and occupant names for each. For people listed in the directory, their occupant and spouse name was listed. Great resource, and great for historical research!
Legeros - 02/14/12 - 20:11

John, also observe the ashtray. Remember the smoke-eating ashtray that was passed around the ECC, when we started working there? Was a battery-powered thing that was marginally effective, if memory serves. When did the ECC become smoke-free?
Legeros - 02/15/12 - 07:55

A really good telecommunicator would always have one cig in their hand and another in the ashtray, both burning, especially during periods of high volume. You would forget you already had one lit and would end up lighting another.
Jason Thompson (Email) - 02/15/12 - 12:32

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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Let's Go Faster on Wade Avenue

02/15/12 80 W - + 9 - 5

The Wade Avenue Extension, that is. This *News & Observer* column reports that the speed limit has been raised from 55 mph to 65 mph, between Blue Ridge Road and Interstate 40. That's about two miles. Thank the advocacy of the Regional Transportation Alliance. They're also pushing for higher speeds on the entire 540 outer loop, Highway 1 from Cary to Sanford, a section of the Durham Freeway, and Interstate 40 between Aviation Parkway and Lake Wheeler Road. Let's go!

The speed was actually only raised to 60mph on Wade Ave

raceway - 02/15/12 - 13:08

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Burning Truck Versus ABC Store in Brunswick County

02/15/12 120 W, 1 I - + 8 - 8

WECT posted this photo of last night's vehicle fire slash structure fire in Boiling Springs Lake in Brunswick County. An ABC store on George II Highway caught fire after a pickup truck on fire struck the building Tuesday night. The elderly driver was transported, though with no report on his condition. The building suffered significant water and smoke damage to the front. Plus fire damage. Observe the articulating platform also shown in the photo. If memory serves, someone has a Bronto Sky-Lift down that way. Is it Sunny Point FD? Not many "snorkels" still in service in our state, either vintage or being bought new.

Chris Grace/WECT photo

You are right about sunny point having one, not sure if another one is in that county but there are several nice Ariel devices there.
robert - 02/15/12 - 18:11

I recall the rarity of NC "snorkels" being a blog subject of the past. Asheboro(Randolph County) has a 1966(or thereabout) model snorkel still in service. May be one of the older "snorkels" that is still active in NC. Just a random piece of trivia…
ol' snork - 02/15/12 - 18:48

Here are some of the prior blog snorkel threads…

http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..
http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..
http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..
Legeros - 02/15/12 - 19:44

The aerial device shown in the picture is not a Snorkel simply because the lower boom would be on the opposite side of the truck whereas the one in the photo is not.
RescueRanger - 02/15/12 - 23:32

Pierce Sky-Arm, perhaps?
Legeros - 02/15/12 - 23:33

The City of Washington had an ALF Snorkel until maybe five years ago when they purchased a Pierce platform. The snorkel now resides at Chocowinity VFD just on the other side of the Pamlico River. If memory serves, Washington "donated" the Snorkel to CVFD and helps out financially to perform maintenance on the piece with some sort of agreement in place that if Washington's ladder goes down or the Snorkel is

needed in town for another alarm, Choco will bring it for service.

I'll confirm that, but that's pretty close.
Duda (Email) - 02/16/12 - 09:21

And, obviously, all articulating platforms are not created equal. Snorkel is a bit of shorthand, but is best used to describe such aerials where the second/smaller boom is above the larger/first boom. Bronto Sky-Lifts are the reverse, with the second/smaller boom underneath, and the bucket straddling the booms midway on the apparatus. Pierce Sky-Arms are platform ladders with a second articulating section at the end, that lowers Sky-Lift style. Heck, go back in time, and there were a couple **three** boom brands built. The Calavar Firebird, and one made or mounted by Seagrave, come to mind.
Legeros - 02/16/12 - 09:31

Wonder what will become of the smoke coated soldiers that survived the fire? All those poor 10, 12, 15, and 20-year olds.
Chief Otis Campbell - 02/16/12 - 10:04

Rocky Mount had an ALF Snorkel, and I'm purdy sure it remained in their reserve fleet until recently when the new ladder 10 was placed in service and ladder 20 was moved to reserve. If memory serves me right it would run 55MPH, up hill, down hill, highway or driveway, put it on the floor 55 was the constant speed.
Galav,VA - 02/16/12 - 21:36

That would be Sunny Point's.
Andrew - 02/17/12 - 17:30

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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Old Pumper from Old Richmond

02/15/12 144 W, 1 I - + 5 - 8

Photographer Lee Wilson this week found this old pumper that served Old Richmond FD in Stokes County. The 1963 Chevrolet/Howe 750/700 was subsequently sold to Skull Camp FD in Surry County in 1988. The old beauty's now privately owned. See more photos.

We'll need to invite the owner to participate in the Raleigh Fire Department's birthday party parade on Saturday, June 16. Watch for invitations on that one. The parade will take place on Fayetteville Street and fire departments and private owners with antiques will be invited to participate. (Modern apparatus will also be participating.)

From there, we'll have a muster with static and pumping displays. And other activities, including the first fireman's games to take place in the Capitol City in a while. Watch this space for more information, or keep an eye on **www.RFD100.com**.

Lee Wilson photo

Old Richmond FD is in Forsyth, not Stokes County.
Scott - 02/15/12 - 11:29

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

Remember personal info?
○ Yes
◉ No

Comment: / Textile

Morrisville Fire Station Ribbon Cutting, March 14

02/15/12 98 W, 1 I - + 6 - 5

Save the date. Ribbon cutting for Morrisville's new Fire Station 1 at 200 Town Hall Drive will be held on Wednesday, March 14, at 10:00 a.m. Station tours will be conducted at 9:30 a.m. as well as immediately following the ceremony. Light refreshments will be served. Construction of the new station started in September 2010. The three-bay, $3 million, 13000 square-foot facility replaces a very old (and oft-renovated) building on Morrisville-Carpenter Road and Highway 54. Here's an prior blog about that and earlier fire department buildings. The new station opens next week. Can't wait to pay a visit!

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Post Comment | Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Mystery History: Where Was This Taken?

02/16/12 69 W, 2 I - + 4 - 5

This is one of the rare color photographs of Raleigh's second tiller, a 1958 American LaFrance 700 series shown turning a corner somewhere downtown. Could be fun to recreate. But where is there? Based on the tall buildings a few blocks behind the truck, it's perhaps one or two blocks east or west of Fayetteville Street? See what you think. Click to enlarge:

Just to be clear, are we helping you figure out where it is, or do you know and we're trying to guess? Do you know when this was taken?

rfburns - 02/16/12 - 16:27

This is the corner of Martin Street and Person. The tiller is traveling east on Martin and turning north on Person. Moore Square is on the right.
Donaldson - 02/16/12 - 19:09

My guess is maybe 1970s for the photos.

Martin and Person streets, eh? Giddy-yup! Those streets sure look different, via Google Street view, now! That must be the City Market a couple buildings down?
Legeros - 02/16/12 - 19:33

My money is on East bound on Martin, taking a left onto S. Person.
LJ - 02/22/12 - 18:54

Yep, I beleive that is part of the city market showing behind the truck. The parking spaces are angled differently now. Actually, there is still a white house near that intersection that resembles the one in the picure with a new roof on it.
LJ - 02/22/12 - 18:56

I think 70's is right for this picture, judging by the gaudy, oversize helmet shields that were added to the helmets in the late 70's, as well as the 70something model GMC van in the picture. Looks to be early morning, too. Okay, now I'm done. :)
LJ - 02/22/12 - 19:00

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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Legeros Fire Blog on Facebook

02/16/12 96 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

Want to receive blog posting notifications via Facebook? Visit the Legeros Fire Blog Facebook page. Then click **Like**. Just like that. (Potential investors can relax. Liking Legeros isn't likely to diminish the value of the Facebook's initial stock offering. We think.) The site's a regular Facebook page, so you can add comments and commence discussions as desired. (And no pesky moderation, at least for posting!) Might need a new logo, though. The patch gallery image is okay, but it doesn't knock my socks off.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Chocowinity's Snorkel

02/16/12 75 W, 2 I - + 6 - 4

As referenced in the comments of this recent posting, here's a 1981? American LaFrance snorkel in service at Chocowinity Fire Department in Beaufort County. Delivered in 1981 and equipped with a 1250 GPM pump, it first served on the other side of the river in Washington. After delivery of a 2006 Pierce platform, the snorkel moved to Chocowinity. Dig that low-riding cab! Courtesy CFD, from their Facebook page. Click to slightly enlarge:

Chocowinity Fire Department photos

Meaning no disrespect to my brothers at WFD, as I served as a volunteer there for a couple years, but the quote used to be "When the Snorkel

goes up, the building comes down". It was impressive to walk into the truck room and see that baby sitting there.
Duda (Email) - 02/17/12 - 09:53

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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The First Minute of All 22 James Bond Films

02/16/12 85 W - + 9 - 3

How about a little movie love for a change? Here's your viral video of the day, found on the blog Hollywood Prospectus. Writes blogger Mark Lisanti: "Why would someone line up 22 tiny videos of the first minute of every James Bond film in a single YouTube window? Because there were 60 seconds of your day that needed filling with exactly this, that's why." We meaning me agree. Click through to YouTube for larger version. Enjoy.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Maps of the Second State Fairgrounds

02/17/12 131 W, 2 I - + 8 - 4

Did you know that the North Carolina State Fairgrounds was once located beside North Carolina State University? From 1873 to 1928, it occupied a 55-acre site known as Cook's Hill on then Hillsboro Road. When opened, the site was a quarter-mile west of the city limits. Below are two maps, a Sanborn Insurance Map from 1914, and an overlaid Wake County IMAPS street map. Observe that a section of the original race track has survived-- or at the land used for same-- as a curved section of Everette Avenue. (The maps don't perfect align. Blame the differences in map technologies between then and now.) Explore the Sanborn Map online. Or read more State Fair history. Readers can perhaps share other factoids. Click **once or twice** to enlarge.

Hillsboro Street was changed after the town of Hillsboro changed their name to Hillsborough in 1965. Here's a little history of the street's name: http://goodnightraleigh.com/2008/05/hist..

Legeros - 02/18/12 - 09:50

Name: (real name preferred)

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- No

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

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

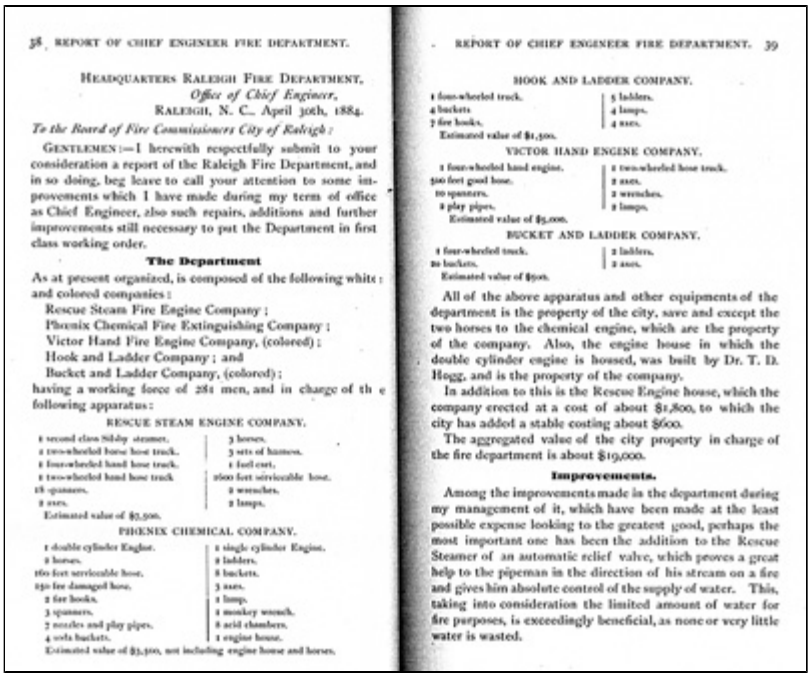
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

Raleigh Annual Report Excerpts, 1883 to 1911

02/17/12 109 W, 1 I - + 10 - 6

For your Friday evening hysterical historical enjoyment, here are (a.) scans of (b.) photocopies of (c.) excerpts of (d.) Raleigh annual reports, for select years between ~~1884 and 1905~~ 1883 and 1911. Each contains the volunteer fire department's fiscal year summary, plus relevant reports from the Mayor or the Market House Committee or the Water Works Committee. For 1887 and 1888, you can read all about the municipal water system that was installed. That brought fire hydrants in 1887. Then came fire alarm boxes in 1888. Good stuff, and reasonable quality for reading. **Read the annual reports**. Want to read the whole thing? Here's a Google books copy of the 1885 report.



38 REPORT OF CHIEF ENGINEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.

HEADQUARTERS RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT,
Office of Chief Engineer,
RALEIGH, N. C., April 30th, 1884.

To the Board of Fire Commissioners City of Raleigh:

GENTLEMEN:—I herewith respectfully submit to your consideration a report of the Raleigh Fire Department, and in so doing, beg leave to call your attention to some improvements which I have made during my term of office as Chief Engineer, also such repairs, additions and further improvements still necessary to put the Department in first class working order.

The Department

As at present organized, is composed of the following white and colored companies:

Rescue Steam Fire Engine Company;
Phœnix Chemical Fire Extinguishing Company;
Victor Hand Fire Engine Company, (colored);
Hook and Ladder Company; and
Bucket and Ladder Company, (colored);

having a working force of 281 men, and in charge of the following apparatus:

RESCUE STEAM ENGINE COMPANY.

1 second class Silsby steamer,	3 horses.
1 two-wheeled horse hose truck,	3 sets of harness.
1 four-wheeled hand hose truck,	1 fuel cart,
1 two-wheeled hand hose truck	1500 feet serviceable hose.
18 spanners,	2 wrenches,
2 axes.	2 lamps.

Estimated value of $5,500.

PHŒNIX CHEMICAL COMPANY.

1 double cylinder Engine.	1 single cylinder Engine.
2 horses.	2 ladders.
160 feet serviceable hose,	8 buckets.
150 fire damaged hose.	3 axes.
2 fire hooks.	1 lamp.
3 spanners,	1 monkey wrench.
2 nozzles and play pipes.	8 acid chambers.
4 soda buckets.	1 engine house.

Estimated value of $3,500, not including engine house and horses.

REPORT OF CHIEF ENGINEER FIRE DEPARTMENT. 39

HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY.

1 four-wheeled truck.	5 ladders.
4 buckets	4 lamps.
7 fire hooks.	4 axes.

Estimated value of $1,500.

VICTOR HAND ENGINE COMPANY.

1 four-wheeled hand engine.	1 two-wheeled hose truck.
500 feet good hose.	2 axes.
10 spanners.	2 wrenches.
2 play pipes.	2 lamps.

Estimated value of $5,000.

BUCKET AND LADDER COMPANY.

1 four-wheeled truck.	2 ladders.
20 buckets.	2 axes.

Estimated value of $500.

All of the above apparatus and other equipments of the department is the property of the city, save and except the two horses to the chemical engine, which are the property of the company. Also, the engine house in which the double cylinder engine is housed, was built by Dr. T. D. Hogg, and is the property of the company.

In addition to this is the Rescue Engine house, which the company erected at a cost of about $1,800, to which the city has added a stable costing about $600.

The aggregated value of the city property in charge of the fire department is about $19,000.

Improvements.

Among the improvements made in the department during my management of it, which have been made at the least possible expense looking to the greatest good, perhaps the most important one has been the addition to the Rescue Steamer of an automatic relief valve, which proves a great help to the pipeman in the direction of his stream on a fire and gives him absolute control of the supply of water. This, taking into consideration the limited amount of water for fire purposes, is exceedingly beneficial, as none or very little water is wasted.

The above linked historical resource has been updated, adding reports from 1883, 1906, 1910, and 1911.

Please remain calm in response to this news.

Legeros - 02/23/12 - 08:35

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment:

/ Textile

Yesterday's Plane Crash in Fayetteville

02/18/12 128 W, 1 I - + 10 - 5

The *Fayetteville Observer* has posted a handful of photos from yesterday's plane crash at the Fayetteville Airport. A single-engine Mooney M20TN crashed into a grassy area while landing about 5:30 p.m. The aircraft flipped at least one. The two occupants received minor injuries. Unusual are the action photos, which were probably "right place, right time" for the news photographer. Strong telephoto lens, favorable sight lines, and proximity to a non-secure area probably also helped, as the below image looks like a "through the fence" shot. (This is incident photography quarterbacking in action, I admit.) Recalling last night's television news report, extrication was required for at least one person. Read the news story.

Amanda Berg/Fayetteville Observer photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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

Post Comment | Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Garner Fire Department Hiring, Meets Marine Walking

02/18/12 99 W, 1 I - + 6 - 7

The Garner Fire Department is hiring for a full-time firefighter position. Starting salary is $30,400. Read this announcement letter, which includes qualifications. Applications can be downloaded from www.garnerfire.com, or obtained at Garner Station 1 during business hours. Deadline for applications is Friday, March 16, at high noon. Don't wait until the last minute. On a related note, here's a picture from Wednesday, February 15, when Marine Walking Mac McQuown stopped at Garner Fire Station 1. Read more about him here, or read about his recent visit to Raleigh Fire Station 1.

Garner Fire Department photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

Fayetteville's 1989 E-One Crash Truck For Sale

02/18/12 112 W, 1 I - + 5 - 6

Speaking of the Fayetteville Regional Airport, their 1989 E-One Titan III crash truck is for sale on GovDeals. Starting bid is $10,000. Description: "1989 E-one Titan III ARFF truck, 12,526 miles, three-man air conditioned cab (2 SCBA seats), 1250 gpm Waterous pump, 1500 gallon aluminum water tank, 200 gallon foam tank, 450 lb dry chem. Tank, Feecon roof turret (replaced in the late 1990's), Feecon bumper turret, structural pump panel, hose reel, 4.2 kw generator, 2x500w scene lights." And three extra tires in the deal! Thought that looked like a newer crash truck, in last night's news footage. Google finds that they're running a Oshkosh Stryker 1500. Need to visit some time.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Last Night's House Fire on New Bern Avenue

02/19/12 259 W, 1 I - + 10 - 4

Here's your morning action shot, from last night's house fire at 905 New Bern Avenue. Dispatched as working house fire at the intersection of New Bern and Idlewild Avenue. Police reporting subjects possibly still in structure. Engine 3 arriving at a two-story wood-frame structure with 2,178 square-feet. Built 1925, with additions and remodeling in 2003. Basement space. Three family dwelling, per tax records. Engine 3 into structure, supplied by hydrant from South State Street (?). Didn't catch (ha!) who caught or supplied, maybe Engine 1.

Interior crews removed after about 10 minutes, with heavy fire conditions in the structure. Defensive operations started. Picture below shows streams from portable monitors on left and right of structure, protecting exposures. Aerial stream from Ladder 4, from second hydrant caught at Cooke Street (?), with Engine 5 boosting pressure. Two additional engines special called. Medic unit special called, to help evaluate multiple patients.

New Bern Avenue closed during incident. along with several side streets. Dispatched at 7:21 p.m. Controlled in about an hour. Three adults and two children escaped through back window, assisted by police officer. Another adult also escaped. Five people treated for smoke inhalation by EMS. Cause under investigation. Units on scene included E3, E1, E7, E5, L4, R2, B2, B3, A1, C10, C20, C40, E6, E2, EMS11, EMS 7, EMS 31, M94, D1, T1. Was the second structure fire for many of the units, which had cleared an outbuilding fire on Brighton Road less than an hour before. News reports: WRAL, WTVD, NBC17. **See preliminary photos by Mike Legeros**.

Add in EMS7, EMS31, and Medic 94.

DJ - 02/20/12 - 12:42

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Morning Accidents

02/20/12 124 W, 2 I - + 12 - 3

WRAL has posted a couple photos of this morning's fiery accidents on Interstate 540. Both are presumably viewer photos. Top is I-540 at Creedmoor Road, where two lanes in each direction were closed about 6:30 a.m. Bottom is the ramp from westbound I-40 to I-540, that reportedly involved a Durham police vehicle. Two officers were transported. Read more from WRAL. Here's some aerial footage from WRAL from the second incident. See also stories about this morning's many accidents from WTVD, NBC17, News 14, News & Observer. Other incidents this morning included a working house fire in southeastern Wake County, with Garner and Eastern Wake fire departments. Fully-involved on arrival. Readers can add incident details, or relate other tales as desired.

WRAL photos

Blogging fast this morning. This posting should be redone, leading with the police officers injured and that incident, then add the second fiery wreck at Creesmoor Road. Hoping for the best for the injured officers.
Legeros - 02/20/12 - 10:47

Clayton Fire Department also responded to the fire in Eastern Wake's area.
Zack A - 02/20/12 - 12:47

Fuquay E-2 running out of station 1 had a vehicle fire with two vehicles fully involved threatening a two story residence. Special called T-3 and Holly Springs E-2.
911 - 02/20/12 - 13:16

Correction. Engine 5 not Engine 2 from Fuquay
911 - 02/20/12 - 14:39

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

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Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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Hockey Response Vehicle

02/20/12 15 W, 1 I - + 11 - 9

Seen in Morrisville this morning.

Somehow I believe this might be D.J.'s POV ;)
Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR (Email) (Web Site) - 02/22/12 - 09:22

Funny that was the first person I thought of too!
Zack A - 02/23/12 - 15:39

Don't I wish…
DJ - 02/24/12 - 09:27

Needs LEDs.
Duda (Email) - 02/25/12 - 22:20

It just needs to be sitting in my driveway… then it would be guaranteed to have LESs, strobes, and a goal horn…
DJ - 02/26/12 - 18:09

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment:

/ Textile

Body Cameras For Police Officers

02/21/12 245 W, 1 I - + 7 - 3

Neat story from today's *New York Times*, about miniature video cameras and cloud-based storage systems for police officers. They've been developed by Taser International, the company better known for its stun guns. They're the obvious next step from dash cams, and with an equally obvious value: documentation of suspect behavior and confrontations therein. Of course, the camera cuts both ways, and will also document the officer's behavior.

Personal cameras have become a staple in the fire service, or at least with those departments that permit helmet cams. But they've raised plenty of concerns among chief officers and, heck, even peers. Reputation management alone gives some folks pause. (Nobody wants to be shown doing less than their best.) Then there are legal aspects, or presumably legal aspects. (Mr. Blogger isn't a lawyer, nor watches them on television.)

Seems like personal cameras will make law officer's lives easier, and their conduct even more transparent. The explosion of smart phones and social media channels already has everybody watching everyone else. Sure, we've always had cameras, but sharing what we've photographed or recorded is easier than ever. Adding cameras to the bodies of those charged with our protection seems an inevitable next step. And probably a good one. What do our readers in blue think? Exciting, scary, both? All that's left are personal cameras for telecommunicators. That's the footage that we're all wating to see...

Joshua Lott/New York Times photo

I think these are a good idea. The problem with a bystander video is it will be sold to a media outlet. Once the media owns the video it can manipulated anyway they so choose. We've all been on at least one call only to see it on the news later and say, "Wow, that's not the way it happened at all.". Lately, I've been considering looking into front and rear dash cams for my personal vehicles for my own protection. The cameras have become so small they won't even be noticed from the outside. Sure would help me in court when (not if) someone plows me from the rear. If the camera shows the driver not paying attention to their driving (if they were they wouldn't have hit me), you're darn right I'll sue.

Rescue Ranger - 02/22/12 - 11:16

Hmmm… I don't know. I am OK with the dash cams. And I like RR's idea (may have to talk the other half into that). My concern is what happens to the video? OK, you go through a check point, the officer comes up, checks your license, and then says "have a nice day". What are the legalities of going back to the station, reviewing the recording, and then, based on something that theysaw, or think they saw, and did not have a warrant to search for, they come back and arrest you. I don't know. Maybe that is a far fetched example. I know the argument would be "well, if you aint' got nothing to hide…" I am just afraid of the implications of being under surveillance all of the time, even when you don't know it…

DJ - 02/22/12 - 20:56

I really believe the implication of such cameras is nothing more than to protect the officers from being wrongly accused.

Rescue Ranger - 02/22/12 - 21:01

In my jurisdiction the SRO's in the schools are experimenting with these. Great idea in my opinion, especially with the new statute requiring interviews with juveniles be recorded while be questioned by law enforcement.

BFD1151 - 02/22/12 - 21:08

That's a pretty nifty idea, Double R. Wide lens camera, maybe in the corner of front and rear windshield. Connect to the car's power. Digital memory of some sort, of course. Wonder what percentage of traffic accidents would benefit from such video evidence?

Legeros - 02/22/12 - 21:20

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

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Vintage Apparatus Postcards, Kinston, Fort Barnwell

02/22/12 46 W, 2 I - + 13 - 10

Found for sale on eBay. The Kinston postcard is postmarked 1976, the Fort Barnwell postcard does not have a postmark date. At least, as indicated by the eBay seller. Seagrave on left, Ford/Bean on right. Click to slightly enlarge:

I bought that Kinston truck on EBay years ago from Harrell's Fire Department. Used it for birthday parties and tailgating at the Carolina Hurricane Stanley Cup Finals against the Oilers! I still have my photos from the games, parties, when I picked it up, and when I listed it on Ebay. I have since sold it to a collector in Florida who is restoring it to delivery condition lettered for Kinston FD. I have lost touch with him, but the truck was coming along great last I talked to him.

Donaldson - 02/22/12 - 17:07

Seems like back in the day everyone had one of those Bean pumpers. Fords, Chevrolets, GMCs…. dozens of them around the state. Most, if not all, sold by Mr Hall from Wake Forest.

DJ - 02/22/12 - 20:51

D.J. your right, A.C. Hall sold a many JOHN BEAN truck in North Carolina. But I believe the seagrave above is the first one I,ve seen with raised white lettered tires..
Galax,Va - 02/22/12 - 22:08

Upon further review of my photos, that truck is not the truck I purchased from Harrell's Fire Department. They are both very similar, but not the same truck.
Donaldson - 02/22/12 - 23:13

Harrells, eh? Pop quiz, hot shot. What's the Wake County apparatus connection with HFD? Heck, what's the Durham FD apparatus connection with HFD?
Legeros - 02/23/12 - 08:38

Durham via Garner via Harrell's. 1940s vintage Ford 'mini-pumper' or what used to pass for such…
DJ - 02/23/12 - 10:13

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

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No

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Raleigh Fire Department Personnel Proposal, 1959

02/22/12 126 W, 1 I - + 10 - 5

My favorite place to research Raleigh (and Wake County) history is the Olivia Raney Local History Library. Among their resources is the fabulous Elizabeth Reid Murray collection. Within same are three boxes of research and records on the Raleigh Fire Department. Found this yesterday, a personnel proposal dated March 25, 1959. The author is probably (certainly?) Fire Chief Jack Keeter (1955-1973). This document caught my attention as it contains perhaps the first reference to Engine 9. That was originally the second company at Station 1. (Later renamed Engine 10, then Engine 15, then Engine 13.) To date, we haven't found the date they were placed in service at Station 1. But this citation gets us closer! Did Chief Keeter gets his requested pesonnel? More later. Click to enlarge:

March 25, 1959

In 1925 the City of Raleigh had three fire stations, #1, #2 and #3, three pumping engines, one 75' aerial ladder truck and one city service truck. The personnel at that time consisted of: one chief, two assistant chiefs and thirty-seven firemen.

In 1926 the population of Raleigh was 35,000 and covered an area of 6-3/10 square miles. Due to the expansion in area and the increased population it was necessary for the city to build two new fire stations that year, station #4 and station #5, and two new pumping engines were bought. The personnel was increased by sixteen firemen.

In 1943 the population of Raleigh was 46,897 and covered an area of 12 square miles. There was no increase as far as stations and personnel were concerned until the year 1943 when station #6 was temporarily put in service on Fairview Road. No extra personnel was employed for this station at that time. The present #6 station was completed and a new pumping engine purchased in 1949.

In 1953 the population of Raleigh was 65,679 and covered an area of 13-1/2 square miles. In this year the fire department was increased by one pumping engine, #9. Since the purchase of this engine there has been no increase in fire apparatus until the present time. There is on order now one new fire truck and the contract to build #7 station has been let.

The population of Raleigh today is 86,000 covering an area of 15-3/10 square miles. We have one chief and two assistant chiefs in the department today, the same as we had in 1925 when there were only 40 men in the department against todays 123.

I am recommending to you that we increase the fire department personnel by 30 additional men, one of which will be another Assistant Chief. I also recommend that another ladder truck be put in service immediately and one more pumping engine be ordered and the men employed and trained to put this truck in service now. [illegible, City Council]

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

Morning Reading - February 23, 2012

02/23/12 401 W - + 8 - 7

Good morning Raleigh. Moving day in Morrisville, with Station 1 shifting from Morrisville-Carpenter Road (built 1960) to Town Hall Drive (started 2010). See photos of both buildings. Mark your calendar for the ribbon cutting on March 14. As for today, don't mind the guy with the camera and Hawaiian shirt. He'll probably come sniffing around around lunch time.

- Ex-Marine walking to raise awareness - *Eastern Wake News* story about Mac McQuown's mission to cross the country on foot. He's spending his nights at fire stations, which wasn't planned, but happened after a fire chief stopped to talk to him on his second day on the road. He stayed in Knightdale last Thursday, and Wendell and Clayton over the weekend. Mac was also profiled in last week's *Wake Weekly*, after staying with Wake Forest firefighters.

- 'Be prepared,' says Morrisville - *Cary News* story about the town's proclamation of 2012 as the Year of Preparedness. They'll be providing information, highlighting services, and featuring events to help residents prepare for disasters as well as situations such as fire, neighborhood crime, and identity theft. Among the services provided by the fire department are educational programs for businesses, schools, and groups, as well as car seat checks and smoke detector installations.

- Durham Fire Department 2011 - Twelve-minute video on YouTube from DurhamFire.net, showing photos and videos of incidents, events, and activities from last year. Such a project could be fun with my own photos from Raleigh, if the time was there. Harder or even more time consuming would be picking the photos. Will think about it.

- Old photos from Raleigh Station 5 - Posted to the Raleigh Fire Museum site, this gallery of scrapbook shots has been updated with a second set of vintage photos. Take a trip back to the Cameron Village fire station in 1984, when Macks ruled the roost, snacks cost 35 cents, and the land behind the station had houses and not bank buildings.

- New Bern Avenue house fire photos - Posted to Legeros Dot Com, the full series was uploaded this weekend. Notice any focus issues? Took my "short lens" (Canon EF 17-40MM F4L) to the camera shop this week. The problem is poor focus on the left side of the frame, but only manifesting in lower light conditions. And maybe only with deep focus or objects farther away. Quite maddening, but maybe minimally noticeable.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment: / Textile

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Bays Were Here

02/23/12 31 W, 1 I - + 8 - 11

Can you tell by looking at the brick work? Here's an earlier history of the building, which was closed today as a fire station. Click to enlarge:

Glad the town was willing to spend the 3.5 mil on a new 13,000 square ft station. They surely take care of us. It is sad to see old station one close though. Very quaint and haunted. LOVED the station. Last call was a fire alarm at about 0130.
Spanky - 02/23/12 - 21:38

I worked part-time there when those bays were still doors! Lots of changes over the years! Congrats again Morrisville!
A.C. Rich - 02/23/12 - 22:16

Mrs. Blogger isn't particularly fond of brick or concrete buildings with obviously bricked over bays or garages. That usually signals yet another stop for photos when we're on a road trip somewhere in the state!
Legeros - 02/25/12 - 09:45

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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Binoculars

02/24/12 28 W, 1 I - + 11 - 11

Falls firefighter directs traffic at a motor-vehicle accident on Leesville Road yesterday. Observe the observers in the background. And riding bareback no less! Click to enlarge:

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

Last Call For Angus

02/25/12 353 W, 2 I - + 7 - 11

On Thursday afternoon, a beloved and dedicated member of the Durham Highway Fire Department passed away. Angus Highway was 14 1/2 years old, and put to rest after saying goodbye to his friends and family at the fire station. He was the face of public fire education both at the fire station and for their many public visits near and far. His fire department family made the difficult decision as Angus had been suffering from seizures and arthritis is recent years.

A private memorial service was held at their fire station on Norwood Road. Angus' last call was transmitted on the radio, see below. His body was transported to a nearby animal hospital, escorted along Leesville Road with a procession of Durham Highway fire apparatus. Visit Angus' Facebook page to pay your respects and see media of Angus in life. See photos from Thursday by Mike Legeros and Lee Wilson. See also these FireNews and NBC 17 stories. Read earlier blog postings about Angus from December 2011 and April 2011.

The following announcement was read at the start of Thursday's ceremony by the Wake County dispatch channel by the Raleigh/Wake County Emergency Communications Center (listen to audio recording):

Raleigh Central all units and all stations, it is with deep sense of sadness that the members of the Durham Highway Fire Department announce the passing of long time member Angus.

Angus was a 14 1/2 year veteran of the fire department where he served as a proud member with great distinction in the public safety education program responsible for educating thousands.

Angus was more than a mascot, but a dedicated presence in the community and was quickly adopted by everyone who met him.

Angus executed his duties with distinction and will be greatly missed by the fire department, the community which he served, and the entire fire service brotherhood.

Thank you Angus for a job well done.

Raleigh Central to Angus...

Raleigh Central to Angus...

Raleigh Central to Angus…

God Speed Angus.

Communications is now clear at 16:14 hours.

RIP Angus. We all love you and miss you
268 - 02/27/12 - 02:56

Sad to hear that such a lovely soul has passed, RIP Angus.
David - 05/10/13 - 07:48

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Yesterday's Apparatus Accident in Cabarrus County

02/25/12 91 W, 1 I - + 6 - 11

FireNews.net has posted this story about last night's apparatus accident in Cabarrus County. Georgeville Fire Department Engine 2 overturned on Highway 200 while responding to a medical call. The accident occurred about 8:00 a.m. and less than a mile from the fire station. The driver-operator and the only firefighting aboard the truck was not injured. He pulled himself out of a window after the apparatus turned on its side. The three year-old engine was totaled. See also: WCNC, WBTV, WSCO.

WCNC/Georgeville Fire Department photo

This is a 2006 Smeal pumper recently purchased by the Georgeville VFD from the Jackson Park VFD after they went out of business in July 2011.

Curtis Teague (Email) - 02/26/12 - 12:53

The damage to the truck is currently being evaluated. It hasn't been "totaled" yet.

JP17 - 02/26/12 - 13:11

Hope there is a thoughtful department nearby that will loan them a pumper until they can replace or fix this one.

911 - 02/26/12 - 18:27

We actually had a reserve we were in the process of selling that we have placed back in service. West Stanly, Midland, Allen and Mt. Pleasant assisted with removing equipment from the wrecked truck and placing the reserve back in service so a very big thank you to those departments.

JP17 - 02/26/12 - 22:38

What kind of truck is the reserve?

911 - 02/27/12 - 23:57

It's a '89 Ford/ American pumper tanker.

JP17 - 02/28/12 - 06:37

What is you'lls second out engine.?

911 - 02/28/12 - 08:23

Here's a web page with info on GFD apparatus, http://www.georgevillevfd.com/index.php?..

Looks like they also have a 2000 International/KME pumper/pumper-tanker that might be same.
Legeros - 02/28/12 - 08:27

Yea I found it just after I posted my question. Thanks Mike, I should have asked (you) earlier. That's a big tanker that they have.
911 - 02/28/12 - 21:28

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

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

Post Comment | Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

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

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

Unusual Airport Fire Station

02/25/12 100 W, 1 I - + 8 - 16

This one's in the province of Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic. The Missus paid a visit a couple weeks ago. She would have taken this shot, had the plane passed at the right angle. Credit for this photo instead goes to a Facebook friend's family member. Such open-air stations are common in Latin America, correct? Maybe same for the natural (or natural-looking) building materials? [Insert reference to *Gilligan's Island* as desired.] Observe the apparatus. Two Oshkosh Strikers, plus an older Oshkosh crash truck and what's probably a tanker or pumper-tanker. Click to slightly enlarge:

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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A Revolutionary patriot in the family

02/25/12 174 W, 1 I - + 7 - 8

That's the headline for a neat *News & Observer* story from Thursday, about Raleigh firefighter Chaz Moore who today became the first black member of a North Carolina chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. The ceremony took place this morning at the Museum of History. Moore, 30, is a descendant of Toby Gilmore, a slave who was freed after fighting for American independence. Moore recently discovered these roots through a cousin's research into their family tree.

Some historians estimate that about 5,000 blacks fought against the British. In 2006, Harvard Professor Henry Louis Gates and SAR began a project to track black patriots. At the time, they estimated about 30 of the group's 27,000 members were black. The project's results, titled *Patriots of Color*, is expected to be published on a web site within a few weeks. **Read the entire story**. As for a history of blacks in the American fire service, this National History of Black Firefighters is a great place to start. Congrats, Chaz!

News & Observer photo

A distinct honor for a great guy! Congrats to you and your family Chaz!

A.C. Rich - 02/27/12 - 09:27

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

Mystery Construction Video

02/26/12 49 W - + 7 - 12

What's happening here? Can you explain or paint the bigger picture? Will reveal all, if intrepid guessers or Googlers don't find it first. What's the connection to this blog, or the fire service. Well, we know at least one person with similarly exhaustively obsessive interests...

So far some guy is digging out a basement using model construction equipment. Somewhere in a rural area. Looks like it has been going on for 5 years, that is a hobby that keeps you busy and producing a benefit above that in the end.

Then I found
http://www.leaderpost.com/life/Getting+h..
Joe Murray is steadily ridding his basement of dirt – but he's doing it by sitting on a chair in the corner of the room, about 10 feet away, using radio controlled trucks and diggers to slowly work away at the soil.

Not sure on the fire tie in.

Close?
2redline - 02/26/12 - 21:58

Blogger is in to die cast models, these appear to be radio controled die cast construction vehicles. Judging by the spider webs. I agree with redline, appears to be under a house or in a dirt floored basement.
Galax,Va - 02/26/12 - 22:05

I would assume your tie would be that you follow his process or buy models from the same company as he does. I know there is a lot of interest in this type hobby in Europe but have not seen much around here. Pretty cool to watch the skill and quality of these models to act and physically do the same as the real deal.
2redline - 02/26/12 - 22:06

That's indeed the scoop, ha. Guy in Canada spends all winter using R/C vehicles to dig out dirt from his basement, then all summer trucking

the dirt outdoors. Pretty wild. What's the tie or appeal? Blogger thinks it's cool!
Legeros - 02/26/12 - 22:10

I was going to go with "Mr. Blogger's making his crawlspace deeper". Pretty cool.
Duda (Email) - 02/27/12 - 09:54

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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Restaurant Burns in Siler City

02/26/12 52 W, 1 I - + 9 - 13

News & Observer photographer Harry Lynch snapped this strong shot this afternoon in Siler City, where a restaurant caught fire about 1:00 p.m. Highway 64 through town was blocked by emergency units, reports the paper. Three departments were reportedly on scene.

Harry Lynch/News & Observer photo

I came up on this one visiting family in Siler City today. The fire broke through the roof just as the first units were arriving on scene. The fire was in the kitchen area and it looked like they did a good job keeping it contained to that side of the building. I think they used a hydrant across HWY 64 initially. During overhaul they switched to a water shuttle in the parking lot with a few tankers to open the road back up. Siler City, Silk Hope, and Bonlee Fire Departments were on scene.

Brady - 02/26/12 - 23:38

And here's a WTVD story on same, with footage of the structure afterward http://abclocal.go.com/wtvd/story?sectio..

Makes me think of the Roadhouse fire in Raleigh, which happened during eating hours, and require patrons to evacuate. That one was destroyed.

Legeros - 02/27/12 - 07:55

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment:

/ Textile

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Light at Night in Warren County

02/27/12 44 W, 1 I - + 11 - 8

Intriguing photo from John Franks, from a fatal house fire in Warren County on February 19. Camera is a Sony SLT-A55V. Ambient light, 6400 ISO, 0.04 second exposure. See more photos. Read story on FireNews.net.

John Franks photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Notify: ☐ Yes, send me email when someone replies.

When Jet Dryers Burn

02/28/12 160 W - + 11 - 13

Here's your amazing fire video of the week, a burning jet dryer during last night's Daytona 500. What's a jet dryer, you ask? As Google informs, they're jet-powered blowers used in the racing industry (among others) for rapidly drying track surfaces. They're also used for clearing debris. This 8:48 minute video clip features lengthy footage of the firefighting effort, after a car driven by Juan Pablo Montoya collided with the truck-mounted dryer. The safety crews slash firefighters faced burning jet fuel that was also flowing down an incline. (The dryer truck is equpped with 200 gallons of jet kerosene.) Looks like numerous dry chemical extinguishers were deployed at first, followed by a handline from either a mini-pumper or a full-size engine. (Pierce is apparatus sponsor of the event.) By the end of the video, you'll see three pumpers on the scene. Someone post a run card! Great video. Easily the best-shot fire video you'll see this year.

The first things they used were fire extingushers, which included a big fire extingusher on the back of the f-350. The fullsize pumpers were used to supply water to the f-350's. It was a total of 5 pierce pumpers there. The handline pulled came from the second engine that arrived, not the first one that was stationed over there in that area. And for all you local people, Charlotte Motor Speedway puts on a class on how to a member of one of these safety teams once a year at the end of March.

Trey Evans - 02/28/12 - 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

Caldwell County House Fire Photo

02/28/12 81 W, 1 I - + 14 - 12

While we await more information out of Caldwell County about the death of firefighter Chad Settlemyre, 25, of the Sawmills Fire Department (read FireNews.net announcement), here's a *Caldwell County News* photo of a Saturday morning house in Braymer. The family members escaped unharmed, but their two-story home was consumed. Read the story. Photographer credit isn't known. Shadows lightened using PhotoShop Elements. Commence ethical discussion of digital processing as desired. Click to enlarge:

Caldwell County News

Jeff has updated FireNews to include the arrangements: http://www.firenews.net/4155/firefighter..

A.C. Rich - 02/28/12 - 12:49

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Reader Mail Again - February 2012

02/28/12 929 W - + 10 - 14

More mailbag excerpts, as dinner settles and little cutting and pasting and typing helps counter the urge to kick back. Still have a couple more hours of productivity time before bed! Must. Remain. Active.

Q: Do you have a contact or email link on the blog? Went to look for it to suggest something and I could not locate a way to contact you via blog.

A: Didn't have same, but have added one. Thanks for the great suggestion!

--

Q: Mike is there a list of current North Carolina fire chiefs or contacts that you have or know about?

A: The best that I have is this Yahoo Groups mailing list: ncfirechiefs@yahoogroups.com. And this directory on the OSFM site.

--

Q: I just had to laugh a little when reading the "Tanker Fire In South Carolina" thread on your blog. I guess safety is really being stressed now, as well as the need to have personnel fit for duty with the advent of "non-alcoholic" foam.

A: Please help support those members of the emergency services community who have problems with alcoholic foam.

--

Q: I tried posting a comment to your site's most recent post, but for some reason it wasn't working. I tried posting it a couple times and then gave up since it didn't seem to work. I love your blog, BTW.

A: Thanks for the kind words. Your post posted fine. I have enabled moderation on my blog, and thus had to approve my post. That feature is new, maybe a couple months old.

Please consume alcoholic foam in moderation.

--

Q: I enjoyed your site and have gathered some great research information from it. I noticed the building that I am researching was listed with the wrong address. The Old Town Hall and Central Firehouse in Washington is located at 126 North Market Street.

A: Thank you! That is helpful and I will update my database of historic and former firehouses at my next convenience. The site is a bit outdated, alas. Some years have passed since I was heavily researching and exploring old engine houses around the state. Thus reader submissions are extremely useful. I still have, cough cough, some buildings to add on the eastern side of the state that Lee Kennedy photographed for me, as well as some recently explorations by Lee Wilson.

--

Q: Love all your fire photos, any chance you have any more from the old Six Forks fire station (EMS Station 3) on Six Forks road from back in the day? Or any of the Raleigh Fire Department from 1975-1990?

A: For RFD old photos, take a look at www.raleighfirehistory.org. For pics of the old Six Forks station, those have been hard to find. Here are some related to that:

http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog/pivot/entry.php?id=3595
http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog/pivot/entry.php?id=3588
http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog/pivot/entry.php?id=3594

--

Q: I am tasked with putting together a history of sort about our agency. I know several of the early employees and plan to talk to them. I was wondering if you had any words of wisdom, or an outline of sort that might help me get started.

A: Here are some key questions to try to answer, that may help you:

- When founded, key dates in development?
- Who founded, key people, key leaders, over time?
- Where located? Facility locations over time?
- What did they do? Describe mission at first, then if their mission has changed over time?
- Notable events? Are there notable events that have been milestones of the organization, that they have participated in, or that have affected them?

--

Q: Where do you get all your fire-related car and truck models? That is, if the source isn't a secret.

A: Great question! And one that's easy to answer, but in a disappointing fashion. Maybe eight or ten years ago, the market for American-made (or marketed) die-cast model cars and trucks was booming. Code 3 Collectibles and Corgi USA were the biggest players. Yat-Ming was making some well-detailed (and very reasonably priced) 1:24 scale antique fire engines. First Gear was producing a number of fire service models, including some very nicely tooled pumpers. Matchbox Collectibles had come and gone, however. They left a couple dozen very nice vintage fire engines in their wake. Plus some pocket-sized gems, and a couple 1:24 and 1:18 releases. (There were also numerous models ripe for importing from Europe, such Del Prado's splendid World Fire Engine series. And releases from Siku and Minichamps and Schuco and such.)

Lately, in the last couple years, the production of die-cast fire service models has greatly diminished. Code 3 Collectibles has gone out of business. Corgi USA stopped production of fire apparatus models. Yat-Ming did the same. First Gear has stuck with construction and commercial vehicles. The Franklin Mint is also stopping production, or maybe has already. On the up side, the relatively new TWH Collectibles has flourished with their museum-quality promotional models of Seagrave and Pierce apparatus. Matchbox has been booming as well, both with their 1-100 line and Real Working Rigs. They've shifted their toolings toward more realistic (and outright licensed) models.

But, back to your original question, where do you get them? Try these places: eBay (of course), www.diecastmodels.co (TWH), www.3000toys.com, www.diecastdirect.com, and www.pthinc.com. Those are good starting points. Plus Google.

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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UPDATED: Arrangements for Sawmills Firefighter Chad Settlemyre

03/01/12 277 W, 2 I - + 11 - 3

March 1

The Lenoir *News-Times* posted a story this week, reprinted on Firehouse.com. Members of the Sawmills Fire Department learned of their brother's death a little more than 12 hours after celebrating the groundbreaking of an addition to their fire station. The department's first responders were dispatched to a reported unconscious subject at 3:10 a.m. Monday. They discovered the patient was Firefighter Chad Settlemyre. He was transported by Caldwell County EMS to Frye Regional Medical Center in Hickory. There he was pronounced dead. The cause has not been determined and an autopsy is planned. Settlemyre had been at the station that weekend, helping with preparations for Sunday's ceremony. Here's his obituary from the *Hickory Daily News*. He's survived by a wife and a two-year old son. The funeral is Saturday at Fellowship Baptist Church in Hudson. See below.

February 28

Information is still scare about the death of Firefighter Richard "Chad" Settlemyre, 25, of the Sawmills Fire Department in Caldwell County. He died early Monday morning, February 27, at Frey Regional Medical Center in Hickory. Reports this FireNews.net announcement, he had been engaged in a work detail the day before, and had left the fire station at approximately 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 26. The *Hickory Daily Record* has posted a preliminary obituary. A complete obituary will probably appear tomorrow. Haven't found any news coverage as of yet. Funeral arrangements are as follows:

Visitation

Friday, March 2, 2012
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Fellowship Baptist Church
2682 Fairwood Drive
Hudson, NC, 28638

Services

Saturday, March 3, 2012
2:00 p.m.
Fellowship Baptist Church
2682 Fairwood Drive
Hudson, NC 28638

Here's a Lenoir News-Times story by way of Firehouse.com about Chad's death, and the reactions and remembrances of his department, http://www.firehouse.com/news/10634965/n..

Legeros - 02/29/12 - 22:59

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

Remember personal info?
Yes

New Rigs For Richmond

02/29/12 66 W, 1 I - + 7 - 18

Four ladders, two rescues, and one pumper for the Richmond Fire Department, all from Pierce. The four ladders-- designated quints-- are a pair of 75-foot and 105-foot aerials. The trucks are Pierce Arrow XT's of 2011 and 2012 model years. Full specs and posed pictures in this VAFireNews.com story. Photos below from the Pierce Flickr site.

Congratulations Richmond! I know that the RFD has been using the quint concept for several years now, so why was a engine ordered?
Watson - 02/29/12 - 15:10

Glad to see a pumper purchased. Richmond used to be a large well-balanced fire department with over twenty engine companies and nine ladder companies before it was devistated with budget cuts, personnel cuts, and the move to the "total quint concept".
Curtis Teague - 02/29/12 - 19:20

Watson yes Raleigh ladders are quint by defination! but we do not use the quint concept as replacing our engines! they are ladders assigned at stations with engine companies!
Jason Lane - 03/03/12 - 00:42

My understanding is that both Richmond and St Louis are going away from this quint concept. They are doing it slowly as they replace aged out equipment
Watson - 03/03/12 - 09:20

Here's a neat recent Firegeezer posting about the start of the quint (and maxi-pumper) concept, http://firegeezer.com/2012/02/14/what-sy..

Here's a prior blog post about a book about the referenced RAND research in that column, http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we... I bought a copy and read same. As I recall, it was pretty interesting/compelling.
Legeros - 03/03/12 - 09:37

Mike and Jason Lane,
I have not checked the boards in the past couple of days and do not know what comment was made about Raleigh's ladders. The only post I have made was on February 29th, asking about why Richmond is buying engines (are they phasing out the Quint concept?). All other posts from "Watson" were not from me, I just wanted to clear up any misunderstanding or ill words that may have been shared by someone using my name.
The real Watson - 03/03/12 - 10:55

Thanks for noting, Watson. Perhaps there are two of you? We'll put Sherlock on the case!
Legeros - 03/03/12 - 11:18

Watson, I think Jason saw RFD in your comment and instantly thought Raleigh FD not Richmond FD. It was clearly a misunderstanding.
Mike - 03/03/12 - 12:17

Richmond is contemplating a move away from the total quint concept. A department study written by Fitch & Associates should be published soon. The rank and file members would welcome a move to what St. Louis is now using. St. Louis is operating engines/quint/rescues in a combined system. Believe they have different names for the 75' ALs and their 100'+ ladders/towers. Richmond has an additional 2 105' quints and a rescue engine on order. Three quints will be ordered at the start of the next budget year. The current fleet is in terrible shape. The quint/rescues/frvs that were purchased back in 97/98 are literally falling apart. Keep in mind each of the 20 stations are assigned an quint and engine which the 4 man crew will respond with based on the call type. i.e. the engine on med calls and the quints on fire calls. The 3 rescues operate the heavy rescue and the special operations vehicle they are assigned i.e. hazmat/tech rescue etc. A move to a combined system would enable the department to cut the number of apparatus in service and save a lot of money. The new apparatus are an add-on to a Suffolk Virginia order. I spent some time last weekend on the new Quint#21. Nice truck but terrible turning radius.
Noah - 03/03/12 - 18:41

my bad sorry! thanks Mike! yeah should have read a little slower! Mike I found a old red rescue jump suite that the rescue crews had up to the early 90's. It is bagged and tagged for Chief Walt. I thought it would be a nice addition to the mus!
Jason Lane - 03/03/12 - 20:41

You're the best, Jason! Thanks for thinking of us.
Legeros - 03/03/12 - 22:33

Noah, I've been out of the fire service for YEARS and YEARS and except for what I've read on this site and links Mike posted, I don't know nothing about the Quint Concept.. Your posting is a little confusing to me, I'm getting feable minded and cain't quite figure out what Richmond is doing now, what St. Louis is doing and what Richmond wants to do.. Are you saying Richmond now has 20 stations with a "Quint" and an "engine" and that there is only 1 crew assigned to the station, and that the crew uses which truck the call warrants? I'm so confused..Can you clear it up a little for me??
Galax,Va - 03/04/12 - 09:40

I have done a punctuation and spelling pass on Noah's comment, and it has been rendered more readable.
Legeros - 03/04/12 - 09:58

Partial explanation of quint concept, from Richmond FD site, http://www.richmondgov.com/fire/QuintCon..

Firehouse.com forums discussion of same, http://www.firehouse.com/forums/showthre..

And random Google find, a EFO paper by a Wilson FD member on the modified quint concept, http://www.usfa.fema.gov/pdf/efop/efo282..
Legeros - 03/04/12 - 10:02

Thanks Mike, that clears it up some, I'm still sitting here holding my head with both hands and running this through my mind it just seems like a waste to me..Why have a FRV or Engine with a Quint at each station. Seems the Quint could do it all..But thats just my opinion.
Galax,Va - 03/04/12 - 10:25

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

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Yes
No

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Local Firefighter Badly Injured in Maryland House Fire

02/29/12 324 W, 1 I - + 16 - 20

This is slightly older news, particularly if you're a Statter911 reader. Dave's been providing sterling coverage of Friday's house fire in Riverdale Heights, Maryland, that severly injured Buies Creek native and current Bladensburg Fire Department Firefighter Ethan Sorrell. He's shown on the right, with Firefighter Kevin O'Toole. Both were badly injured when a sudden gust of wind created a "blowtorch effect" inside the residential structure that crews had just entered. Sorrell, 21, is a volunteer member of the Bladensburg Fire Department, where he's attending college. Five other firefighters were also injured.

As this local story reports (FireNews.net by way of a couple sources), Sorrell suffered respiratory burns through his esophagus and down to his lungs. He's presently unable to speak, and communicating with pen and paper. O'Toole suffered second- and third-degree burns over 40 percent of his body. He's scheduled for skin-graft surgery and will be staying at the Washington Hospital Center burn unit for six weeks.

Blandensburg Fire Department photo

Sorrell is a student at the University of Maryland, and a 2009 graduate of Harnett Central High School. His firefighting career began as a member of Buies Creek Fire Department in 2006, followed by Dunn Emergency Services in 2008. He's studying emergency management and fire scenes at the university, and has been a member of Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Company 9 since February of last year. He also many ties in Wake County, including a brother who is a member of the Fuquay-Varina Fire Department.

Evening update: Sorrell has been released from the Medstar Burn Unit at the Washington Hospital Center, reports this Statter911 story. He was brought back to the fire station on Truck 809, the rig that brought him to the 57th Avenue fire. He is now reportedly back with his family in North Carolina, updates this story. O'Toole is up and around at the burn unit. He'll have a second round of skin grafts tomorrow.

Thanks Mike!!
J.D. - 02/29/12 - 19:33

Hey PGTruckie, I'm thinking of you Brother. I saw the story and couldn't believe my eyes. If you come back to NC for a little, hit me up.
Silver - 02/29/12 - 20:10

Ethan has returned home, as of 7:30pm tonight. He was escorted by a crew from Bladensburg Fire Department and the fire department SUV

back from Bladensburg, Maryland to Buies Creek Fire Department. As of tonight, he was feeling much better and asked that everyone continue to pray for Kevin O'Toole as he remains in the burn center from what has now been ruled as an arson fire. On a lighter note, Buies Creek Fire Department would like to thank Summerville Fire-Rescue, Dunn Emergency Services, Erwin Fire-Rescue and a huge thank you to Bladensburg Fire Department for assisting us in putting on a big welcome home party for Ethan tonight.
BuiesCreek802 (Email) - 03/01/12 - 00:41

First I would like to thank everyone for continued prayers and support. My guys have told me everyday I was in the hospital and heading south we have people calling from all over. So thank you to the chiefs and officers that called offering support from manpower, to money, to apparatus and food. Thank you to the few that I had as instructors coming through as a junior it was the basic training that saved my life and in turn allowed me to save my brothers life. Special thank you to Michael Swiman from Wake Forest FD it was that rescue 1 & 2 class at JCC when you were teaching us victim removal that essentially allowed me to get O'Toole out. Thanks again for the support and prayers it truly means a lot and please feel free to send cards and letters stop by and visit I have a lot of time in the next few days before I head back to be with my brother. Thank you again and Mike sorry for being the annoying pest that tended to start shit on some of the threads I just like to have reasons why :) no harm intended. Oh and Silver please email me, the guys at the firehouse told me some guy called and said to tell me it was "Silver".

Ethan Sorrell
Bladensburg volunteer Firefighter #18472
Buies Creek volunteer Firefighter #864
PGTruckie (Email) - 03/01/12 - 02:15

I am sure Ethan will get on here & say something eventually. I know that many people from this state & the Harnet/Wake county areas have been asking and following all the updates on Ethan, Kevin, & the guys from Riverdale & College Park. I can't even begin to say thanks for all the phone calls, emails, facebook messages/posts, cards, & prayers. Ethan has been remarkable in healing. He will be at home for a while before he begins the road of traveling back to MD for follow up visits with the burn center doctors & hopefully can soon start going up there to see Kevin. We held a welcome home for him tonight at Buies Creek & man I think it was hard to find a dry eye when he first got out of the car. He couldn't even get out of the truck before I wrapped my arms around him & hugged him harder than any other time in past 21 years. I had left and returned home on Sunday night & it felt so good to hug him & know he was out of the hospital and home with us (until he heals & goes back up north.) Please if you can get up with him & go by to see him he still needs support and asks that people continue to think of & pray for Kevin who has a longer road to recovery. I just can't believe that since I got the call on Friday night telling me what happened & then I was given the task of leaving work to go notify my parents at 10:30 of what happened, that he is home. By the way I wish that task on no man or woman in the fire service.

On another note he is still a member at Buies Creek & Bladensburg, he serves at Buies Creek alongside his father, grandfather, & myself. Both of these departments/families have been so supportive to my mom, dad, brother, sister, & myself during this ordeal. Also the DC Firefighters Burn Foundation has been awesome in covering all expenses for my family while we were at Ethan's side in addition to the staff at Medstar Burn Unit at Washington Hospital Center giving him the most excellent care he could receive. But back to Ethan's service history, I would have never thought that 5.5 years ago when he joined Buies Creek as a junior firefighter that he would develop into such a excellent fireman (or truckie for the work he prefers.) HE IS my little brother & I have learned so much from him & at times have held his knowledge of the fire service to a degree equivalent with that of a seasoned veteran. Just what an excellent man he has become in such a short period of time.

Again thanks everyone for what you have done in past week you all know who you are! Continue to pray for Ethan & definitely continue to pray for Kevin as he is in a lot of discomfort and has a ways to go. Also, if you have the ability please take a 5 hour drive north & visit this young man it means so much to the family to see all the support from firefighters. They have had visitors over the past few days from as far away as Oakland, CA!!! Everyone in the fire service in the words of my brother tonight "Continue your training, train always, if not for the training I had I would not be here tonight & neither would Kevin."

I love all my brothers & sisters in the fire service and I mean that from the bottom of my heart. Even if I don't know you I promise you that after this past week you are family to me! Stay safe & I will see you on the next run or the next B-shift day in Fuquay!

Also like 802 said thanks to all the departments & family that could make the welcome home event for him tonight. It meant the world to him & showed him that the brotherhood is every where, even in smaller departments & towns down south.

Thanks, Joshua Sorrell

Joshua Sorrell (bcfdtower8) (Email) - 03/01/12 - 02:23

Ethan – I am very relieved your are safe and sound! Josh – you're a great brother and I greatly appreciate your dedication! God Bless you both and the guys still recovering in PG. Contact me if anything is needed!

A.C. Rich - 03/01/12 - 21:44

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Hide email: ☐ Yes, hide my email address.

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

Morning Reading - March 1, 2012

03/01/12 447 W - + 9 - 8

Good morning, Raleigh. How many months have 28 days? Trick question, they all do! Spring is around the corner. Don't know how that happened. Seems just yesterday we were celebrating the holidays.

- Car versus Raleigh apartment building - WRAL story, my headline. The building at 5001 Bedell Street sustained major structural damage. Residents in two units above the point of impact were displaced. The driver was reportedly fleeing the scene of an accident on Louisburg Road near Spring Forest Road. One car was overturned and the driver briefly pinned. No injuries. See also: WTVD.

- Morrisville firefighters move into new station - *Cary News* story from last week. There's also a short slideshow of photos, that's not linked from that story, but can be found on the *News & Observer* site. Very curious. See also these photos from Mike Legeros, taken on moving day. Plus shots of old Station 1 from a few days before.

- Apex has $41 million wish list - *Southwest Wake News* story about the town council's annual retreat tomorrow. They'll discuss a backlog of capital improvement projects totaling $41 million as well as their currently available cash of $4.5. Public safety projects include a new roof at Fire Station 3, repairs to the shower at Fire Station 1, a new fire department tanker. Nice peek into the business of managing municipal business.

- Frehouse Subs donates trailer for Asheville technical rescue team - FiresNews.net story, about a 36-foot trailer that the restaurant chain is donating in memory of Capt. Jeff Bowen. He died on July 28, 2011, while fighting a fire at a medical office building. The trailer for the department's Technical Rescue Team is worth more than $15,000. Here's a picture of the trailer and participants at a dedication ceremony on Tuesday.

- Havelock man accidentally drinks gasoline, dies after setting self on fire with cigarette - WITN story with updates since the original news story spread like, well, wildfire. Was linked on the Drudge Report, which probably helped the spread. The victim had started to doze off while smoking a cigarette, which ignited his clothes which had been exposed to gasoline earlier in the day. He was transported to the Jaycee Burn Center in Chapel Hill.

- Review of the Lytro camera - *New York Times* blog post with a review of the Lytro, a new camera that records both "what it sees" and "what direction the light was coming from." Because of the latter, you can control in post-processing what is shown in focus or out of focus. That's right, you control the focal point for the image *after* the picture is taken. Pretty cool, but with limitations.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

UPDATE #2: Wake County Fire Commission Meeting Date Change - March 22, 2012

03/25/12 629 W - + 12 - 7

March 25
Here's a partial, impartial recap of Thursday's fire commission meeting, and particular agenda items therein. See referenced documents in this folder of posted files:

- Consider Recommended Fire Protection Agreement - Commission members expressed the need for a longer review period, so they, their staff, or their boards could more thoroughly review the proposed changes. They thus made no move to adopt the document. County staff will take their comments back to the Board of Commissioners. It was noted that many of the added actions in the agreement are already being done by contracted fire departments and county Fire Services.

- Consider Recommended Fire Commission Rules of Procedure - This was approved after a length discussion, with two changes, one of which was restoring language for an alternate representative for each of the four regional fire services positions.

- Consider Recommended Amendment to Fire Compensation Administrative Guidelines - Checking on this one. Believe the decision to recommend was postponed until further discussion is done, or specific questions answered.

- Future of Fire Service in the Fire Tax District - The County Manager presented a short statement about the "state of the union" regarding the Fire Tax District. That's the district that provides funding for fire protection in (a.) unincorporated areas of Wake County and (b.) the town of Wendell. Service is provided through 14 contracts with non-profit departments and six contracts with municipal departments. His core message, coupled with praise for the Wake Forest/Falls merger, involved his stated need for more mergers and consolidations of fire service providers. He noted that very little revenue growth is expected in the tax district over the next few years. Thus, he will not recommend any increase in the tax rate until more consolidations occur. Three areas of particular interest were cited, all watershed areas, where no municipal growth is ever expected: Falls Lake/northern area, Swift Creek area, Little River/Eastern Wake County area. He closed his comments noting that he doesn't know what the solution should be, and his office will work with anyone with ideas. See his message document in this folder of posted docs.

- Public Command / Wake County Association of Fire Chiefs - Garner Fire Chief Matt Poole noted that they're bringing a seminar to town, with the Salisbury Fire Department teaching a class about line-of-duty deaths. They'll be sharing the knowledge and experience gained when their department lost two members at a mill fire in 2008.

March 16
The agenda has been provided for next week's meeting, along with related documents. Click that link to see these documents:

1. Agenda March 22, 2012 Meeting
   (See file: 3-22-2012 Agenda.pdf)
2. Draft Minutes of the January 19, 2012, Regular Meeting
   (See file: Draft Minutes_19Jan12 Meeting.pdf)
3. Recommended Fire Protection Agreement
   (See file: Fire Contract amended 03.01.12.pdf)
   (See file: Revised Fire Protection Agreement Presentation.pdf)
4. Recommended Fire Commission Rules of Procedure
   (See file: Revised Fire Commission Rules of Procedure.pdf)
5. Recommended Amendment to Fire Compensation Administrative Guidelines
   (See file: Fire CompGuidelines, Updated February 2012v3.pdf)
   (See file: Revised Compensation Guidelines Presentation.pdf)
   (See file: Comp Guidelines_Staff Revisions.pdf)
   (See file: Comp Guidelines_Compensation Committee Revisions.pdf)
6. Apparatus Committee Report
   (See file: Apparatus Committee Report.pdf)

7. Fire Tax Financial Report
   (See file: Fire Commission Finance Reports_July 1 to March 14 (FY12YTD).pdf)

March 1
The next meeting of the Wake County Fire Commission is Thursday, March 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 Carya Drive. Please note the date change. The meeting has been postponed one week. We'll post an agenda and other documents as they're available.

Reader question, how many of the documents at the meeting were approved. I'll check my notes when I am back in town to clarify, but I believe this is what happened…

The fire protection agreement was discussed in the context of a longer review period. The commission members felt they hadn't had enough time for them, their Chiefs, their Boards, to review the document. Thus, they didn't recommend adoption.

The rules of procedure were discussed, notably a couple particular points including alternates. I believe the majority of that document (but not the full thing, as-is, was adopted.)

The compensation model discussion lost me. I'll need to check my notes on that one.
Legeros - 03/24/12 - 11:00

The revised contract was tabled due to the concerns Mike mentioned. The ROP's were approved as amended without the removal of the fire service alternate. The compensation model was to be further reviewed by staff and the committee.
D.Cates - 03/26/12 - 16:19

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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

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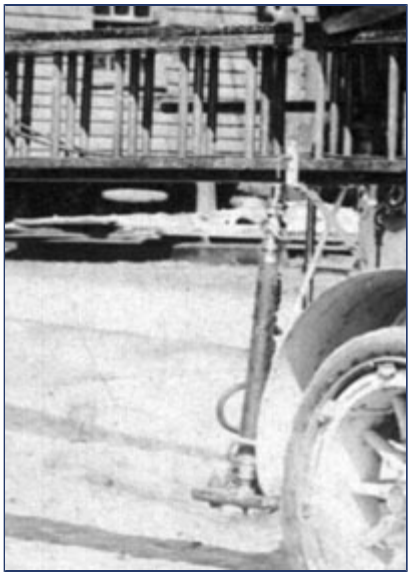
Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

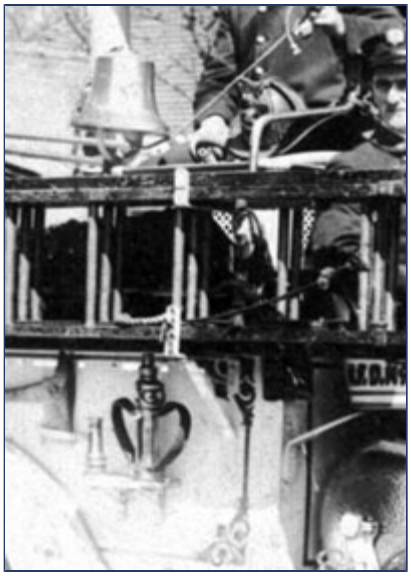
Small print: All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Closer Look: Hose Company 3, 1920

03/02/12 91 W, 7 I - + 7 - 6

For your Friday enjoyment, here's a view and closer views of Hose Company 3 in front of their East Hargett Street station. The photo is dated 1920. That's an 1912 American LaFrance Type 5 combination chemical and hose car. It's lettered for No. 2, because it originally served as Hose Company 2. (They were renamed engine companies around 1920.) Two of these were delivered in February 1913, the first motor apparatus of the city. Look closely and you'll see some familiar items. What do you notice? Click to enlarge:





North Carolina State Archives photos

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Homes Damaged, Destroyed in East Charlotte This Morning

03/03/12 152 W, 2 I - + 9 - 2

The overnight storms swept through east Charlotte about 2:30 a.m. and damaged several homes on Brookstead Drive near the Reed Creek Plantation area. Many roads were also blocked by downed trees in the nearby area of Plaza Road Extension. Three people were transported with weather-related injuries. Two shelters were opened at area schools. About 45 people had arrived at the shelters early this morning. Sources: WSCO-TV, WCNC. ~~Still collecting information. More updates coming.~~

As this subsequent *Charlotte Observer* story notes, the damage was caused by a tornado with winds up to 135 mph. The Red Cross reports a preliminary estimate of 89 homes damaged, including eight severly, and three destroyed. See this slideshow also. Another tornado struck Cherokee County last night, with 25 homes and 15 businesses damaged, reports this WRAL story. See also this subsequent FireNews.net story, with photos from the Charlotte Fire Department.

WSCO-TV photos

Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

Shear Excitement for Airport Firefighters

03/04/12 98 W, 2 I - + 9 - 8

A number of firefighters and fire departments participated in a St. Baldrick's Foundation event at Napper Tandy's yesterday in downtown Raleigh. Among the teams that raised money for children's cancer was RDU Fire Rescue. The airport firefighters raised $2,905 and nearly tripled their goal of $1,000. They were followed by a team from the Garner Fire Department. We'll have a "before" photo posted. Plus some other familiar faces. Good day and good cause. And more than a few double-takes. No camera was harmed during the making of these pictures... Click to enlarge:

Congrats to RDU-CFR!

A.C. Rich - 03/04/12 - 17:02

Was a fun day for a great cause!

R. Stanley - 03/04/12 - 17:36

I forgot to add… the Stony Hill FD team was at Napper Tandy's later that afternoon/evening – and raised $4,951.00. As I understand, 1st place of the FD teams represented. Good job to all!!

A.C. Rich - 03/04/12 - 23:09

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

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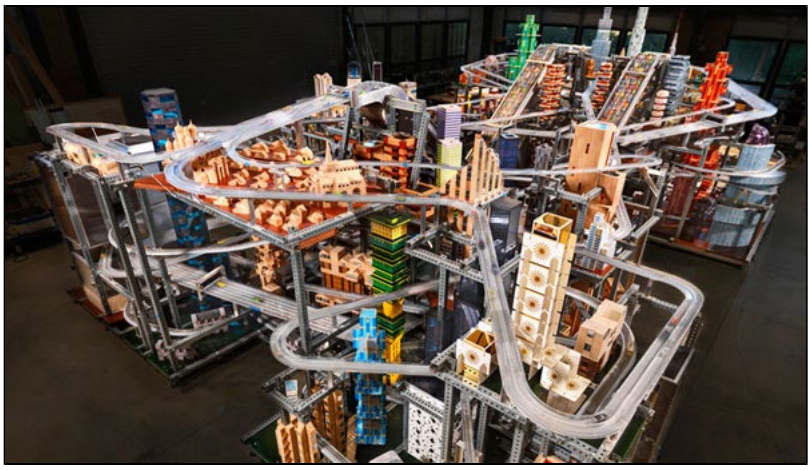
Four Years + 1100 Toy Cars = Metropolis II

03/05/12 137 W, 1 I - + 8 - 8

For your Monday morning enjoyment, here's another off-topic treat. This is Metropolis II, a 600 square-foot kinetic sculpture by artist Chris Burden that's been installed at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The thing took four years to build and features 18 roadways where 1,200 Hot Wheels-sized cars travel at 240 scale mph. Plus 13 HO-scale trains that also travel through the set. Every day, approximately 100,000 cars circulate through the cityscape, the artist estimates. The cars are lifted by a magnetic conveyor belt, then are propelled by gravity to the bottom. Teflon-coated tracks and specially designed curves help with their velocity. The sculpture requires human monitoring, and with ear plugs, as the thing is noisy. And it can only run for 90 minutes at a time. Google Metropolis II for more articles about the thing.



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Vote For Best Fire/EMS Blog

03/05/12 96 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

This annual contest is hosted by EMS1, FireRescue1 and FireCritic.com, and sponsored by the American Military University. Four categories will be award, two in fire and two in EMS. They'll be a Judges Choice and a Readers Choice for each. Here's the nomination form, on the FireCritic site. Here's his posting about the contest, with links to the rules and what have you. The contest will be conducted in two phases. Open nominations until March 10, and voting for the finalists until March 21. Cast away!

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Post Comment | Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Notify: ☐ Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Raleigh Fire Museum Open This Saturday, March 10

03/06/12 183 W, 2 I - + 11 - 3

We've added some new artifacts and new display cases to the Raleigh Fire Museum, which is open **Saturday, March 10**, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Notable are a pair of Cairns helmets, made of metal and dating to the 1920s. Or probably earlier. The museum is located in a classroom trailer at the Keeter Training Center at 105 Keeter Center Drive, Raleigh. It's operated by a non-profit 501(c)3 organization also named the Raleigh Fire Museum. The museum is open on the second Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Parking and restrooms are available. Admission is free.

IMG_3519

2011-06-14-rfd-museum-29-mjl

Please note that the city's collection of antique fire apparatus is **housed at a separate location**, at Fire Station 28 at 3500 Forestville Road in northeast Raleigh. And that is a secondary mandatory destination for anyone interested in history! Contact the Raleigh Fire Museum for information about arranging special tours or group events at the museum. For contact information, or to learn more more about the history of the Raleigh Fire Department, visit www.raleighfirehistory.org.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Post Comment | Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Four Hundred Old Firehouses and Counting!

03/06/12 127 W, 1 I - + 11 - 3

Been a year or more since we updated our database of **historic and former firehouses in North Carolina**. We've counted 400 of the things, maybe more. You can check my math. The criteria is simple: any building still standing that's a closed firehouse, or an active fire station that's 50 years or older. Blog readers and site visitors have been contributing for years.

Time for another round of reviewing. If you're interested, please lend a hand. Help is needed with a number of street addresses and specific locations. Ditto for dates. Plus any buildings not yet listed. Send photos as well! All corrections and additions are most welcome. Thanks in advance for your help. Obsession is good. Click once or twice to enlarge:

Mike, that would make great poster to raise money.
Ryan - 03/06/12 - 22:48

I wondered if you had Gastonia's old St.1, as I was there yesterday and snapped a couple photos in case you didn't.
Duda (Email) - 03/08/12 - 09:35

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

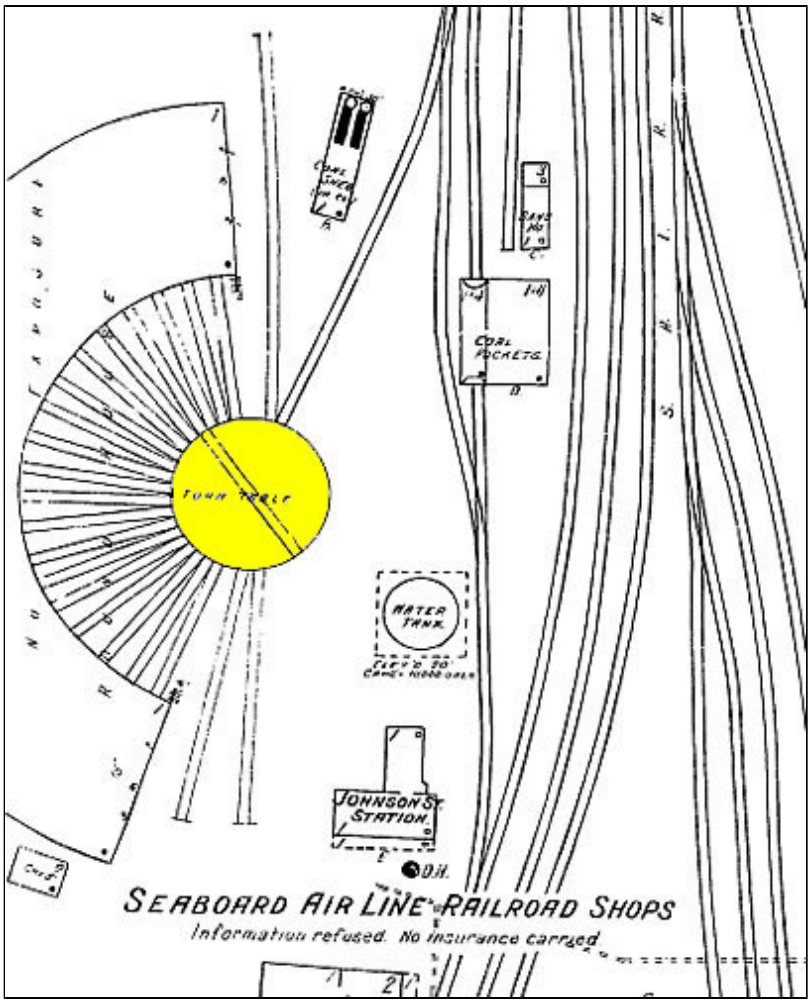
Raleigh's Railroad Turntable

03/07/12 148 W, 2 I - + 8 - 4

There are a number of interesting structures around Raleigh that reflect its railroad history. The section of Union Station beside Station 1. The remains of a wooden trestle on Hargett Street where a coal yards stood a century before. And a working turntable in the 200 block of West Johnson Street, where a Seaboard Air Lines Railroad roundhouse once stood. Here's a photo from Lee Wilson from 2007 showing the thing in action:

Lee Wilson photo

This Goodnight Raleigh posting talks about the thing. A brick roundhouse once stood on the spot, along with a water tank and coal station for fueling the steam locomotives. And concrete strips can still be seen radiating out from the turntable, which supported the tracks leading to the stalls of the roundhouse. Here's a Sanborn Map excerpt from 1909 showing the thing. View an interactive version of the map.



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Web Site: (optional)

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Video of Charlotte School Bus Fire From Last Month

03/07/12 58 W - + 11 - 5

Here's last month's video of the school bus that burned in Charlotte on February 9, 2012. Looks like the arriving engine parked ahead of the bus, to the right of the frame. The incident resulted in statewide inspections ordered for school buses. Read WCNC story for more, or Google.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Second Annual Warren County Junior Firefighters Competition, Saturday, April 28

03/07/12 256 W, 1 I - + 13 - 6

Fire Explorer Post 672 is hosting its Second Annual Warren County Junior Firefighter Competition on Saturday, April 28, 2012, at the Warren County Recreation Complex, 840 NC Highway 158 Bypass,Warrenton, NC.

The competition will consist of six field events, plus one knowledge-based written exam, and one knowledge-based oral exam. Trophies are awarded for first through third place in all events plus "best overall" for the team with the highest average for the day. Entry fee is only $50 per team. Competition limited to 20 teams. **View the flyer**.

Contact Information:

Warren County Junior Firefighters
c/o Post Advisor Chris Pegram
416 Macon Embro Road
Macon, NC 27551
(252) 213-0393
mrfdasstchief@yahoo.com

We are also looking for Sponsors and Vendors for this event.

Sponsors:
$100 Sponsorship gets either a 2' x 5' banner with their name/logo on it or their name/logo on the official Competition T-shirt.
$300 Sponsorship gets both a 2' x 5' banner with their name/logo on it and their name/logo on the official Competition T-shirt.
$1000 Sponsorship gets both a 3' x 8' banner with their name/logo on it and gets to name one of the 1st place trophies (total of 9 available).

Deadline is no later than Monday, April 2, 2012.

Vendors:
We are seeking non-food vendors for this event. There is no fee for vendor space however we are asking each vendor to donate a $25+ gift to the Explorer Post to be raffled off during the competition. Vendors will need to provide their own tables, tents, and electricity.

Pictured from last year's competition are Knightdale PS Explorers and Fairview Junior Firefighters.

John W. Franks (Email) (Web Site) - 03/10/12 - 14:53

A very well coordinated event!! Stony Hill is planning to attend again this year. If you have a Junior FF program, they will have a blast in Warrenton!!

A.C. Rich - 03/10/12 - 17:40

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Morning Reading - March 8, 2012

03/08/12 440 W - + 9 - 7

Good morning Raleigh. Saw a few FOOLS last night at Napper Tandy's at their monthly meeting. Discussed the blog a bit. We're a few months into the big tone-down, partly accomplished by implementing moderated comments. Blog might be duller now, but the blogger has considerably less heartburn. Buy me a beer, er soda, some time and I will pontificate at length. As for the Capital Area FOOLS, they're again planning a Brotherhood Bash to accompanying the annual Fire Expo. This year's will be bigger and better. More details as we get closer to August. Or see photos from the first bash, last year.

- Firefighters honor Chad Settlemyre - FireNews.net has posted a few photos from the March 3 funeral procession of Sawmills Firefighter Chad Settlemyre, who died on February 27. Can't find any other stories about the services, alas.

- Salisbury demonstrates new radios - FireNews.net story from the Salisbury Post, with a picture and some details of the department's new radios. They're receiving 50 hand-held APX 600XE radios by mid-June. They're submersible, dual-sided, and can track the users location inside a structure. The need for these was identified after the death of firefighters Justin Monroe and Vic Isler, who perished four years ago at a fire at Salisbury Millworks.

- Carrboro Fire Department history - Random history page, this one with an old photo and some older apparatus of the Carrboro Fire Department. Their old station is still standing at 102 Lloyd Street. At last check, a furniture repair store was using the thing. See Mike's former and historic fire stations database for a photo.

- Ten-digit dialing, new area code coming - WRAL story and an opinion from myself: how annoying is that? Starting March 31, everyone in Wake and several other counties will have to dial 10-digit numbers. That starts March 31. And new phone numbers will start with a new area code, 984. Guess it's the cost of growth.

- Pole-ster from Longshot Camera Systems - Saw this product mentioned in a *New York Times* article. Twenty-foot pole for taking pictures from high places. Pull cord to trigger shutter. Sounds crazy? Check out the demonstration videos. Or make your own version, holding a monopod (or, gasp, tripod) over your head, and trigger the shutter with a timer. Just don't tip over!

- Speaking of the Fire Expo - The South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo is scheduled for August 8-11. Yours Truly will be participating in a pair of workshops. First is a panel on fire photography, led by FireNews.net editor Jeff Harkey. Second is a Raleigh Fire Department Centennial History presentation. That's just me.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

Mystery History - Morning Check

03/09/12 111 W, 1 I - + 11 - 4

Here's a little mystery history for your Friday morning, a nifty photo of Raleigh Fire Department personnel circa 1984. The picture was probably staged for the yearbook that year, and likely shot by Gary Knight. That looks like Buxton in front and Moore in the back, standing. The trucks are a pair of American LaFrance pumpers, either 700 or 900 series. The station location isn't known. Is that a single bay door shown? Are the trucks facing backward? We'll lead readers look closely. And why two trucks? One is certainly a reserve. If you identify the station from the photo, then you're *really* eagle eyed! Click to enlarge:

Both are 900 series ALFs. The curved winshield gives that away. 700s were peaked, and a lot narrower. As to station, I think you can rule out 1, 3, and 6 right off the bat.
DJ - 03/09/12 - 08:43

I think that is actually Tim Carrol (left) and Robert Peacock (right)
A.C. Rich - 03/09/12 - 10:04

Trucks are facing forward. There are two bay doors one of which is up hence seeing the Chief's car out front facing Spring Forest rd. I believe the engine on the right to be a reserve. The personnel are checking off E19.
Rescue Ranger - 03/09/12 - 10:46

The man standing kinda looks like a young Donald Summers but that's before my time!
Rescue Ranger - 03/09/12 - 10:51

I do not think that it is 19. 19 did open until about 1988. Maybe station 15. Or old 4(Wake Forest Rd). Or 9
Marcus (Email) - 03/09/12 - 11:47

That picture was taken in 1984 or earlier, so it isn't Station 19. And Engine 19 was placed in service with an ALF 900 with a fiberglass top. Been there, rode that!
Legeros - 03/09/12 - 12:26

Look on the stacked tips…. Station #10 probably. Plus, they had a ALF for several years; and looking towards the street… length of the apron, shrubbery across the street… looks like Station #10 to me!

A.C. Rich - 03/09/12 - 12:32

Yeah, I would go with #10, given the street viewed out front. .

DJ - 03/09/12 - 19:19

Time to consult Mike's magic mystery apparatus chart. Here's who was operating the 900 series ALFs in 1984:

1958 – Reserve or retired. Last served Engine 14 until 1982.
1961 #1 – Reserve or retired. Last served Engine 8 until 1982
1962 #2 – Engine 15, until that year. Then reserve or retired at some point in 1984.
1968 – Engine 10.

Thus the only possible stations with ALF 900 pumpers in active service were Station 10 or Station 15. Both were single-company stations. Truck 15 wasn't placed in service until 1989. Rescue 10, the 1954 Reo heavy rescue with Civil Defense colors and markings, left that station in 1980.

Station 10 thus sounds likes a good guess. Will take a peek at the old log books at my next opportunity, to confirm.

Legeros - 03/09/12 - 20:49

The Stack tips have either E11 or E10 written on them/

Rauer - 03/09/12 - 22:50

It looks to me like the numbers visible on the stack tips are upside down which shows #19. Only problem is #19 wasn't built until 1988.

Rescue Ranger - 03/10/12 - 22:17

And the answer presents itself on page 59 of the 1984 yearbook, which reads "Carroll, Moore, and Peacock checking equipment at Station Ten." Should've checked there BEFORE posting!

Legeros - 03/11/12 - 11:02

BINGO!! I've seen it before… Haha!

A.C. Rich - 03/11/12 - 12:02

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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

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Notify: ☐ Yes, send me email when someone replies.

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Cool as Heck Brush Engine

03/09/12 81 W, 1 I - + 12 - 6

Nanjemoy Fire Department in Maryland. Rosenbauer wildland engine on a Ford F-750 chassis with a Darley pump (500 GPM), a Cummins engine (manual transmission), and a custom fabricated brush guard. Single axles. Carries 400 gallons plus 30 gallons. Mess of scene lights. Pretty sharp looking. Probably too much for these parts. Brush units are smaller around here, and around this part of the state. Does anyone run wildland engines in the central Piedmont? See more information.

Rosenbauer photo

I went to their website and noticed a news story from 2011 where they sold the old brush rig. Three pictures showing many similiarities. Went to a private collector. Larger brush trucks on GMC 5500 and Ford 550 chassis some with crew cabs being used in my area of Iowa.
Eugene Beard (Email) - 03/09/12 - 11:47

Robbins FD in Moore County, NC has a new wildland engine they recieved in the past year, year and half or so?*? on a grant for wildland/urban interface firefighting. its bigger than the truck above and has single axles too! its 4×4 automatic, pump&roll capability, international chassis, i think100gal tank* unknown on any other particulars. i do have pics if you want.
aaron (Email) - 03/09/12 - 21:16

There are 3 in Randolph County, also acquired through a Forest Service grant. Two at Franklinville(one of which was recently transferred from East Side) and one at East Side. Former military ARFF engines, re-configured for W-UI. All are 1980-ish Amertek 4X4's with a relatively similar setup.
Here are links to photos of all three:
http://franklinvillefire.org/trucks/eng8..
http://www.eastsidefiredept.org/files/14..
http://www.eastsidefiredept.org/files/19..
Lt. Lemon (Email) (Web Site) - 03/10/12 - 23:41

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Walking Home

03/10/12 112 W, 1 I - + 6 - 6

Members of Engine 5 on "C" platoon return to quarters on foot, after a structure fire just before shift change at 210 Groveland Avenue. The station is two blocks away. The engine was first on scene at a two-story detached garage (with finished upstairs room), with smoke and fire showing. The fire was controlled within 20 minutes. Extended overhaul involved. Some incoming "A" platoon personnel reported to the scene, and relieved the "C" platoon members on such units as Engine 6, Engine 6, Ladder 4, and Rescue 3. Most drove or back to their stations. These four hoofed it. More pictures and incident details have been posted. Click to enlarge:

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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And a Piano, Too

03/10/12 125 W, 1 I - + 10 - 4

Tobacco barn and player piano, as photographed early afternoon on Raleigh Beach Road. Live burn conducted by New Hope Fire Department. The property address was 4805 Raleigh Beach Road. That's the old Coley family homestead. There's is a familiar name in the local fire service. Fifty-seven acres and a couple buildings, including a 1,177 square-foot home built in 1937. That was the training structure. The owner spoke of a couple older buildings formerly on the property, including a tenant home. The site has been the scene of woods fires in recent years. Unsure when the home was last occupied. [Updated with YouTube embed of "The Old Piano Roll Blues." Feel free to suggest a different rendition...]

Before most of yalls time but how bout Jerry Lee Lewis song " Who's gonna play this ole piano "..

Galax,Va - 03/10/12 - 20:04

Different rendition, not different song! That one by Lewis is a classic, however.
Legeros - 03/10/12 - 20:06

Sorry, you used big words and confused me.
Galax,Va - 03/10/12 - 20:19

The house was last occupied in 1996.
A Coley - 03/10/12 - 21:47

All I can say for sure is that Piano is heavy. It took 6-8 guys to hoof that this out the back door and across the yard. I hope B hop will play us a song one day.
Doppler - 03/11/12 - 00:13

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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

Dam Interesting

03/10/12 206 W, 2 I - + 8 - 7

Would you believe a century-old dam on the Neuse River, just outside Raleigh? Here's a picture, both above and below. Notes this *News & Observer* article from 1997, Milburnie Dam was built about 1900. The water powered an early hydroelectric plant, and later a grist mill. The latter operated until the early 1940s, and remained vacant until 1980. The current (ha!) hydroelectric plant at that location was built in 1984. Three turbine-powered generators produce (or produced) just over 3 million kilowatt hours of electric each year. That's enough to power about 250 homes, notes the article.

Below the dam is the location of old Raleigh Beach, which was a popular swimming spot for years (or decades). And, alas, the site of many water rescues and body recovery operations. (Heck, the Raleigh Emergency Rescue Squad was formed in response to criticism of the city, after a week passed without a drowned body in the Neuse River being recovered. Wonder if that was at Raleigh Beach?) Here's an aerial view from Google Maps. The old section of Raleigh Beach Road is presently a walking trail that connects Anderson Point Park with the Hedingham community. The plant and the dam are easily viewed, and are right off the trail. Click to enlarge:

Hot Shot: Durham House Fire

03/12/12 90 W, 1 I - + 10 - 6

Here's your morning hot shot from the gang at durhamfire.net, by way of their unofficial Durham Fire Department Facebook page. House fire from yesterday at 1510 Concord Street with "B" shift companies E1, E3, E4, L1, L2, Squad 1, B1, B3, MS1, Safety 1, and Bethesda FD. Dispatched about 7:30 a.m., reports this WTVD story. Arriving units found a fully-involved structure with flames showing through the roof. The blaze was also visible to drivers on the Durham Freeway. Click to enlarge:

Durhamfire.net photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

Kid with a Camera (and a Mom) and a Two Homes Ablaze in Loudoun County, VA

03/13/12 175 W - + 9 - 3

Here's your morning fire video, from Statter911. Two homes that burned in Loudown County, VA, on Saturday. The footage is unique as its shot by a young kid who has to contend with his mother's cautions and admonitions.[1] It's also expectedly dramatic pre-arrival footage, with the second of two closely space homes soon catching fire. Dave also offers a strong opinion about modern home building techniques. Twelve reader comments so far. Read his posting.

[1]There's a future blog posting if there ever was one. What's the appropriate demeanor to exhibit when watching such simultaneous exciting and tragic events as a fully-involved house fire? We are indeed a century past the days when newspapers reported the enthusiasm of crowds watching such scenes. They'd bring out chairs and picnic lunches and brag about "that was a good show." Of course, such viewing also took place at certain Civil War battles, if memory serves. Perspectives change over time.

MOM: "its not funny"
KID: "I never said it was"
Brian - 03/15/12 - 14:40

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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Hose Company 2, Circa 1914

03/14/12 213 W, 1 I - + 10 - 7

A new old photo of the Raleigh Fire Department has surfaced, and rates for my money as the best to date. This is Hose Company 2 around 1914, which is the year their Salisbury Street station opened. Could have been taken later that decade, as white apparatus was utilized until about 1920. That's when the fleet was repainted red. The truck is a 1912 American LaFrance Type 5 combination chemical and hose car. The color is white with blue trim. We recently posted some close views of the truck, as pictured in front of Station 3. This photo is far better and offers greater detail.

The physical measurements are 11 by 14 inches. The scanning was done by JW Photo Labs on West Street, using a camera and studio lighting. The photo belongs to Lt. Tim Thrower, who received same as a gift from grandmother when he joined the department years ago. She found same at a yard sale! Very early photos of the Raleigh Fire Department are rare. Maybe three dozen to date from 1920 or earlier. Why is that? Maybe cameras were scarce. Maybe photography was expensive. Maybe most photos were squirreled away, and have yet to surface. We'll hang a copy of this one in the Raleigh Fire Museum. Click once or twice to enlarge:

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment:

/ Textile

Vintage Photo of Charlotte Telesquirt

03/14/12 81 W, 1 I - + 5 - 8

Here's a little lime love from FireNews.net, which posted this week this undated photo of a Ford/Grumman telesquirt from back in the day in Charlotte. Says Editor Jeff Harkey, four such units served the city as Engine 11, Engine 12, Engine 14, and Engine 17. As he best recalls. Does Grumman still make fire apparatus? Looks like the answer is no. Google search results cite 1990 or maybe 1992 as the last year they were manufactured.

FireNews.net photo

KME purchased and operates the Grumman ladder truck plant in Roanoke, VA. It's essentially the same truck with the KME name (even still has some of the Grumman logos). We found out during our recent refurb that most of the same employees still work there. The former Grumman pumper plant in VA housed another fire apparatus manufacturer, but they have gone out of business now.
Zeb101 - 03/14/12 - 09:04

The apparatus in the picture is Engine 11 and also Engine 17 did not have a telesquirt The other Telesquirt was Engine 13 that was a Mack CF then a Pierce Lance until it was moved to Station 25 as Engine 25
david - 03/14/12 - 17:58

I believe it was 92' when Grumman stopped with the Engines. We still have a 92' Grumman Fire Cat Short Wheel Base Custom Cab, that can flat do it.
Chris - 03/16/12 - 01:39

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

Remember personal info?
○ Yes
◉ No

King Firefighter Recovering After Being Struck

03/14/12 226 W - + 8 - 3

Firehouse.com by way of WGHP-TV has posted details on Monday morning's firefighter accident. Lt. Les Collins of the King Fire Department was struck at the scene of a tractor-trailer accident on Highway 52 North. The 15-year veteran was walking to his department vehicle to leave the scene when a minivan crashed through the barricade. The van was traveling over 60 mph, struck the vehicle, and struck Lt. Collins.

He was knocked onto the windshield of the van. Both vehicles slid about 100 feet before coming to a rest. Lt. Collins reportedly saw the van coming through the barricade, but couldn't get away in time. Fire Chief Steven Roberson told WGHP that the firefighter is feeling much better, and is walking around. He was transported to Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, and sustained severe road rash, a bruised pelvis, and a broken pinky finger.

The driver of the van was charged with careless and reckless driving. Most interestingly, he told investigators that he thought the accident scene was a routine traffic stop. He also told them that he never saw the barricade. Great question implied there. How to make drivers uniform respect (or at least increasingly aware) of emergency vehicles, be they serving at a traffic stop or vehicle accident? Read the Firehouse.com story, or read the WGHP-TV story.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Yesterday's Apartment Fire on Quarry Street

03/14/12 115 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

That was good listening yesterday morning on Quarry Street, where crews responded to a house fire at 9:47 a.m. Arriving crews found heavy smoke and fire from the rear of a two-story multi-residental structure at 613 Quarry Street. Challenges included a dead hydrant on Tipton Street. One additional engine was special-called. Controlled at 10:20 a.m. No injuries and despite early report of a child possibly in the structure. Coverage: WRAL, WTVD (includes aerial photos), NBC 17, *News & Observer*. And for those who were watching at home, a nearby DOT traffic cam captured the column of smoke over the treetops. TrafficLand Raleigh for those.

Shawn Rocco/News & Observer photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Historic and Former Firehouses of Columbia

03/15/12 301 W, 5 I - + 9 - 8

With another road trip to Myrtle Beach pending, an exploration of Columbia seemed logical and particularly for finding any historic or former fire stations. With the help of a recent CFD history book, and quite a bit of Google searching, a mere handful have been located. Looks like a number of the older stations were demolished and rebuilt on their same lots. Or they disappeared in the wake of urban renewal and bigger and more buildings downtown.

The monster, eight-bay, Central Fire Station appears still intact, and still has the training tower in back. Looks like development of that building/facility is planned. Old Station 2 on Blanding Street is the former Palmetto Steam Fire Engine Company #2, which was built in 1866 by firefighters and Union troops from chimney bricks left after the great fire of February 17, 1865. It's presently part of an Italian restaurant.

The one-story building at 900 Main Street is a purported old fire station, and more recently an acclaimed (but since closed) pub. Sanborn Maps from 1910 show Station 3 on that block, but a couple buildings to the left. Was this a replacement Station 3? Or just a case of mistaken historical identity? Looks like of small. Old Station 11 is now the fire department's Logistics headquarters. That was the first station staffed with black firefighters.

There are also former county fire stations to be found, such as Old Station 16 in the rear of 952 Lake Murray Boulevard. That building presently serves as a Columbia police substation. Maybe readers can tell more. Or a visit to the local history library there, if it really compels me. Click to enlarge:

Old Station 1	1001 Senate Street	Built 1951	Closed 1995	
Old Station 2	1213 Blanding Street	Built 1866	Closed 1921?	
Old Station 11	1901 Harden Drive	Built 1953	Closed 1995	
Old Station ?	900 Main Street	Built ?	Closed ?	
Station 7	2622 Main Street	Built 1948		

Kannapolis Fire Apparatus Through The Ages

03/15/12 146 W, 2 I - + 10 - 5

From our friends at the Kannapolis Fire Department comes a pair of neat photos showing a 2008 Seagrave, a 1940 Mack, and a 1900s (or abouts) hand hose reel. The modern rig is Engine 11, a 2008 Seagrave Maurader with a 1,500 GPM pump and a 750 gallon tank. The 1940 Mack Model 60 was one of the fire trucks purchased by Cannon Mills back in the day. It's privately owned and on loan for a public education event. The hand-drawn hose reel is owned by the fire department, and probably dates around 1900. That's a not-bad guess. Here's a history of the Kannapolis Fire Department, researched a couple years ago and posted on the blog. Plus a couple historical photos. Photos taken on March 13 by Division Chief Tracy Winecoff. (Familiar family name there!) Thanks to Joshua Clay, Battalion 1-A, for sending. Click to enlarge:

Tracy Winecoff photo

Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

This Morning's Fire on Arckelton Drive

03/16/12 203 W, 1 I - + 8 - 3

Mr. Blogger is under the weather. Thus only listened to this incident. Wish I'd instead been asleep, but my mid-night had been doubled-down with insomnia. Memo to self: Don't take non-drowsy expectorants anywhere near bedtime. Still assessing other side-effects, such as talking in the third person. As for this morning's fire, here's a bit of detail.

Duplex at 4016 Arckelton Drive. Engine 14 arrived with heavy fire visible in the rear of the structures. Crews made entry, and were working to reach the seat of the fire in an attic space. Sagging roof conditions were observed outside. Crews were removed from inside the structure, and Ladder 2 began flowing. One additional engine was requested at that time. A portable monitor was also deployed, believe to the rear of the structure.

Dispatched at 2:05 a.m. Controlled at 2:56 a.m. Both units rendered uninhabitable. No injuries. Cause determined as improperly discarded smoking material, cigarette on back deck. (Idea for national cigarette safety campaign: Watch Your Butts. Wonder what those annual stats look like?) Units on scene: E14, E16, E17, E9, E6 (special), L3, L2, R3, B3, A1, C10, C20, EMS 2, EMS 6, EMS 11, D1, T1.

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

Evening Reading - March 16, 2012

03/16/12 272 W - + 9 - 4

Good evening Raleigh. Moving a little slower this weekend, both in body and mind. Crazy sleep schedules can have that effect. Hope to be back normal-- ha, relative term there-- by Monday or Tuesday.

- Durham firefighters rescue window washers outside new courthouse - *Durham Herald* with details on Thursday's dramatic downtown rescue. Technical Rescue Team members removed four window washers from a swing stage stalled between the eighth and ninth floor of the 11-story building. See also this slideshow from WTVD.

- Vanceboro firefighter pistol-whipped, robbed at station - WITN story about Tuesday night's incident in Craven County. Firefighter Nidal Tokhli had backed a truck into a substation on Oak Grove Road, and was walking about of the building when he was robbed. He was treated at a local hospital for his injuries. See also this WCTI story.

- Havelock firefighters battle garage fire - Havelock News video footage found while searching on the above story. The clip is 6:40 in length.

- NC911.com - Incident photos from John Larew, from around what looks like Iredell County. Found as recently linked to a hot shot posted on FireNews.net. Several years worth of photos. And a frank disclaimer: "it it bothers you, do not proceed."

- Petition to name Asheville bridge for Capt. Jeff Bowen picks up support - *Citizen-Times* story from Tuesday about the online petition that has gathered over 7,000 signatures. Sponsored by the Asheville Fire Fighters Association, the petitions hopes to reverse a recent decision by the Board of Transportation regarding naming Smoky Park Bridge after the fallen firefighter. See also this Statter911 story.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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

Post Comment | Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Raleigh Professional Firefighters Association to Present Semi-Annual Fundraising Concert

03/18/12 139 W - + 10 - 4

Press release. On Sunday, April 29, the Raleigh Professional Firefighters Association will host The Temptations Review featuring Dennis Edwards, and special guests The Embers. Show time is 6:30 p.m. at the J.S. Dorton Arena, at the North Carolina State Fair Grounds. Seating is general admission and the doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

The Raleigh Professional Fire Fighters Association is a 501c5 non-profit organization. The benefit concert does not directly support or affect the services provided by the City of Raleigh Fire Department. Activities supported and funded by their organization include Camp Celebrate, Dance Like No One is Watching Gala, smoke detector programs, creating awareness of firefighter injuries and occupational hazards, support of youth athletics, support of battered women's shelters, and financial support for other organizations. **Read entire press release**.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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The Perils of Interpreting Photos

03/18/12 111 W, 1 I - + 10 - 4

On the FireNews.net Facebook page yesterday, they posted the below WRAL reader photo from a house fire in Clinton on Saturday. They also asked a question about the photo, the placement of personnel, and the risks of the well-involved porch. This morning, FireNews has issued a clarification and a retraction, of sorts. Read through the things. There's a great lesson there, and one that easily forgotten in our digital age. Snapshots are just that. Moments in time. Even seasoned scene photographers can jump to conclusions. That's the power of pictures. And the very human beings that interpret them.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Morrisville Dedicates New Station, Firefighter of Year Named

03/18/12 140 W, 2 I - + 10 - 5

The *Cary News* has posted a pair of stories about the Morrisville Fire Department. First is a historical recap in the context of last week's dedication of their new Station 1. The $3 million facility has three drive-through bays and ten dorm rooms. It will also double as the town's emergency operations center. It's about twice the size of the original, built in 1960 at 100 Morrisville Carpenter Road. Here's a prior post with some facility history of MFD. The second story is a profile of Jared Masker, who has been named Morrisville Firefighter of the Year by Cary VFW Post 7383. The ceremony was held at the Town Council meeting on February 28. Notes Fire Chief Todd Wright, Masker was instrumental in helping the fire department receive its accreditation. Congrats Jared!

Aliana Ramos/Cary News photos

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

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- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

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Hide email: ☐ Yes, hide my email address.

Caption This Photo / Pipes and Sand

03/19/12 63 W, 1 I - + 9 - 6

That's the Wake & District Public Safety Pipes and Drums on Saturday in North Myrtle Beach, where they appeared in the town's 24th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. And then they high-tailed it (high-kilted it?) back to Raleigh, to play at favorite pubs that evening. Read all about it. Click to enlarge:

Wake & District photo

The shenanigans have come to a close. To every band member who participated, every family member who came out to support us, all of our old friends and so many new friends – THANK YOU. We hope everyone enjoyed our gift of music, heritage and camaraderie.
Joe Brady (Email) (Web Site) - 03/19/12 - 21:16

Looks like a blast!!! Hope no one got too much sand in their ghillies!!
Mark Wills - 03/19/12 - 21:20

Kilts gone wild?
Legeros - 03/19/12 - 21:34

From the sea they came to conquer and to the sea they return as conquerors
Mike - 03/20/12 - 10:35

Oh look, a starfish!!
Glen - 03/22/12 - 13:04

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

Small Plane Makes Hard Landing at Airport

03/19/12 38 W, 1 I - + 11 - 3

WRAL posted this photo of a small plane that made a hard landing early this evening at Raleigh-Durham International Airport. Three people were aboard. Click to slightly enlarge:

WRAL photo

Looks like a Casa 212. Nice little planes. Never landed in one tho', only take-off's.
Bob - 03/19/12 - 23:50

Pilot heroically kept the plane under control after critical failure of hydraulics. Well done!! Why isn't his exceptional performance noted in the news? FAA will confirm in their mishap report, tomorrow morning.
Captain A - 03/21/12 - 18:49

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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UPDATED: Raleigh Firefighters Rescue Elderly Man From Burning House

03/20/12 494 W, 2 I - + 12 - 3

March 20

As this *News & Observer* story reports, Raleigh Fire Department Capt. Rob Mitchell (E21C) and Lt. Brandon Hopkins (R1C) talked this morning about Sunday night's rescue of an elderly man at a house fire on Kincaid Drive. They described the sequence of events, including the initial entry by Capt. Michell and Firefighter Austin Foster from Engine 21. With their charged line and a thermal imaging camera, and after initially hitting the flames, they started searching the right side of house. Flames were rolling down the hallway where the resident was believed to be. (Temperature from the floor to their crouched waist was at least 400 degrees. Thus they're on breathing air.)

Lt. Hopkins and Firefighter Tim Ballard from Rescue 1 entered as members of a second search time. They checked a bedroom and found the resident on the floor, with part of his upper body laying against a bed. They dropped their tools, grabbed the resident by his arms and legs, and carried him outside. He wasn't breathing, and resuscitation efforts were started. He was breathing on his own by the time he was transported to the hospital. Read more of their account. See also aftermath photos from Legeros.

March 19

More information was released today about last night's house fire at 4125 Kincaid Drive, where Raleigh firefighters rescued an elderly man from his burning home. As this WRAL story reports, the 75 year-old resident called 911 at 8:49 p.m. He was trapped in his house, and remained on the phone to describe his exact location. While the fire department was en route, an arriving police officer as well as ~~another man~~ the trapped man's son, who also lived there, attempt entry/re-entry. They couldn't get past the flames.

Engine 21 arrived and found heavy smoke and flames from the front of the single-story structure. They had been notified of the trapped occupant and his reported location. Engine 21 was joined by Rescue 1 inside and the two teams searched the house. The resident was found in his bedroom and in respiratory arrest. He was resuscitated by fire and EMS personnel, and was transported to WakeMed and later airlifted to the burn center in Chapel Hill.

The police officer and ~~man~~ resident who attempted to enter/re-enter the home each suffered smoke inhalation. They were treated and released at WakeMed. Three dogs were also rescued. The fire was controlled in 20 minutes. The cause remains under investigation. Units on scene included E21, E21, E11, E19, L2, R1, B2, B1, A1, C10, C20, C40, EMS 5, EMS 2, EMS 63, D1, M94, T1. Media: WRAL, WTVD, *News & Observer*.

Update #1: This second *News & Observer* story provides more details. The rescued man lived with his son, who tried to reenter the structure along with the officer. The father remains in critical condition at the burn center in Chapel Hill.

Great job!
Mike - 03/19/12 - 22:24

Well done RFD. That's what it is all about!!
Engineman 56 - 03/20/12 - 00:44

Well done guys. That is what makes all the bad days worthwile.
Scooter - 03/21/12 - 08:43

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

Apex Engine 1

03/21/12 68 W, 1 I - + 8 - 7

Photographer Lee Wilson last week snapped this well-posed photo of Apex Engine 1, a 2011 E-One Typhoon rescue engine 1500/750. 'Twas delivered on October 28, 2011. And was purchased as an emergency replacement for a 2000 E-One Cyclone pumper. Same was a demo unit and is equipped as a squad, with both engine and rescue equipment. See prior posting. And see larger versions of the photo by Lee.

Lee Wilson photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- Yes
- No

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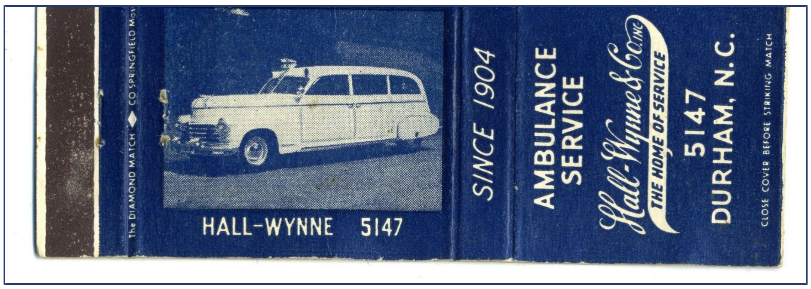
Hall-Wynne Ambulance Service of Durham, 1950s

03/21/12 40 W, 1 I - + 11 - 7

Found for sale on eBay, here's a matchbook from the Fifties advertising the Hall-Wynne ambulance service of Durham. They were a funeral home, and are still operating today. Pretty neat. Click to enlarge:



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- ◉ No

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UPDATED: Falls, Wake Forest Fire Departments Celebrate Merger on Sunday, March 25

03/22/12 598 W, 10 I - + 11 - 3

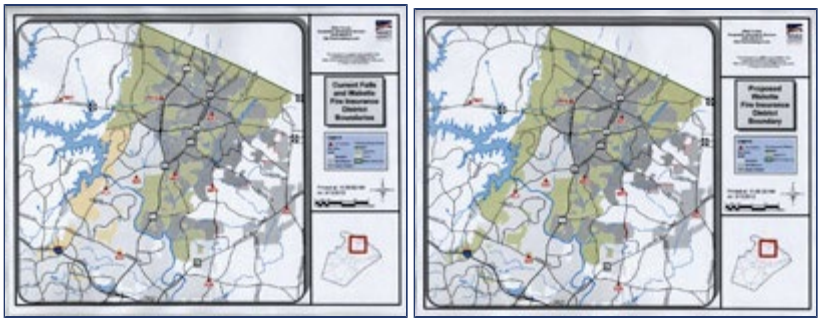
At 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 25, a ceremony will be conducted at the Falls Fire Department at 11908 Falls of Neuse Road, to commemorate and celebrate the department's merger with the Wake Forest Fire Department. The departments signed an operational consolidation contract on July 25, 2011. The merger was first proposed in 2009, and originally included ideas to close the Falls fire station.

The Falls fire station will be renamed Wake Forest Station 5, and will retain the nickname "Home of the River Rats." The apparatus will be renumbered to include Engine 5, Tanker 5, Squad 5, Brush 5, Utility 5, Boat 5, and Car 6. (Wake Forest Station 4 is in the planning stages, and mostly recently in the news regarding town officials discussing funding. It will be located on the northwest side of town.)

Personnel from the Falls FD staff will serve in roles such as Asst. Chief of Volunteer Operations, Battalion Chiefs, and Captains. The response area of Falls and Wake Forest fire departments will be merged. The result will add a ladder response to some current Falls responses.

Fire District Maps

These maps were distributed at Thursday night's Wake County Fire Commission meeting. The map on the left shows the current fire district boundaries for Falls, Wakette (the Wake Forest rural district), Wake Forest, and nearby Raleigh and Rolesville. Note the planned location for Wake Forest Station 4. The map on the right shows the proposed expanded Wakette fire district, now incorporating the Falls fire district. Click to enlarge:



Established in 1970

The Falls Fire Department was established in 1970. They were incorporated on July 7, 1970. Donations were requested of $10 per residence or business, and anyone who donated became a voting member. The fire department raised $3,060 that first year. The fire district limit included east to the railroad tracks on Durant Road, and south on Falls of Neuse Road to the present location of Ravenscroft School.

Sam Perry was the first fire chief. The Falls Community Clubhouse became the fire house. Two fire engines were obtained, a 1956 Ford/American pumper from Six Forks FD and a 1966 military 6x6 tanker from Durham Highway FD. Readers are welcome to expand this history, and add their memories.

Mr Blogger, when spent nights a couple decades ago at the old mill-turned-condos with a girlfriend who lived there, particularly loved hearing their siren begin blasting.

Earlier Mergers

This is the second merger for the Wake Forest Fire Department. On July 1, 1983, the Wake Forest municipal fire department and Wake Forest Rural Fire Department merged. ~~Their districts were joined~~. Wake Forest Fire Department Inc. was chartered. At or about the same time, the town's second fire department was also merged into the organization, Wake Forest Fire Department #2, shown below, which operated from a fire station on Taylor Street.

Other fire department mergers in Wake County have included Six Forks Fire Department (1956-2002), which merged with the Bay Leaf Fire Department in 2002. And Fairgrounds Fire Department (1961-1998) and Yrac Fire Department (1961-1998), which merged to form Westen Wake Fire Department in 1998. Plus a number of mergers of town and rural fire departments, in such places as Apex, Fuquay-Varina, Garner, Holly Springs, Morrisville, and Zebulon.

Gone But Not Forgotten

The Falls Fire Department (1970-2012) will join the list of "gone but not forgotten" fire departments in Wake County (excluding aforementioned municipal and rural variants): Fairgrounds FD (1961-1998), Knightdale FD (1954-2003), Six Forks FD (1956-2002), Wake Forest FD #2 (1942-1983), Western Boulevard FD (1957-1960), and Yrac FD (1961-1998). See much earlier blog posting listing all Wake County fire departments past and present.

It will be interesting to see if the county or Wake Forest replaces station 5.
That is a very old and cramped building. I went by for a visit a year ago and those guy's are very dedicated and appreciate what they have. They have very nice equipment now they need a new larger facility to better serve them and their residents and businesses.

And no I'm not a memebr of Falls or Wake Forest.
Buckwheat - 03/22/12 - 10:44

Good luck moving forward with the merger. Hope it proves to be a success!
Silver - 03/22/12 - 17:05

Updated with fire district maps.
Legeros - 03/23/12 - 09:04

Just before 5:00 p.m. today, Wake County Fire Station 21, the Falls FD, was placed out of service, and Wake Forest Station 5 was placed in service. See some preliminary pics at http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/2012-0..
Legeros - 03/25/12 - 22:43

Isn't 19 Western Wake?? 21 was Falls right?
Typo - 03/25/12 - 23:08

Yes Falls was Station 21. Don't know who 19 is.
RiverRat - 03/26/12 - 02:41

Yes Western Wake is county station 19.
911 - 03/26/12 - 10:38

Thanks for catching my error. I have corrected my comment above.
Legeros - 03/26/12 - 11:11

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No

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North Carolina Fire Department Mergers

03/23/12 445 W - + 11 - 7

How many fire department mergers have happened in our state? Here's a quick list, based on my database of former fire departments. Exclude are assorted municipal/rural mergers, where one joined with the other. And it's not indexed. Thus Black River FD is listed as part of Angier FD + Black River FD, for example.

- 54 East FD > Swepsonville FD (Alamance)
- 87 South FD > Eli Whitney FD (Alamance)
- Altapass FD + Grassy Creek FD > Parkway FD (Mitchell)
- Angier FD + Black River FD > Angier-Black River FD (Harnett)
- Battleground FD > Summerfield FD (Guilford)
- Burlington FD #2 > Burlington FD (Alamance)
- Cameron Rural FD > Circle V FD (Moore)
- Carbon City FD > Morganton FD (Burke)
- Carmel FD > Carolina FD (Mecklenburg)
- Catawba Heights FD > Mount Holly FD (Gaston)
- Chapel Grove FD > Crowder's Mountain FD (Gaston)
- Chestnut Hill FD > Salisbury FD (Rowan)
- Chestnut Ridge FD > Tryonota FD (Gaston)
- Coats FD + Grove Rural FD > Coats-Grove FD (Harnett)
- Deep River FD > High Point FD (Guilford)
- District 14 FD > Greensboro FD (Guilford)
- Edwards FD > Aurora/Richlands Township FD (Beaufort)
- Estatoe FD > Spruce Pine FD (Mitchell)
- Fairbrook FD > Hickory FD (Catawba)
- Fairgrounds FD + Yrac FD > Western Wake FD (Wake)
- Falls FD > Wake Forest FD (Wake)
- Fayetteville Airport FD > Fayetteville FD (Cumberland)
- Gilead FD > Huntersville FD (Mecklenburg)
- Guilford College FD > Greensboro FD (Guilford)
- Haw Creek FD > Asheville FD (Buncombe)
- Hazelwood FD > Waynesville FD (Haywood)
- Jamestown FD > Pinecroft-Sedgefield FD (Guilford)
- Kannapolis Sanitary District FD + Royal Oaks FD > Kannapolis FD (Cabarrus)
- Lafayette Village FD > Fayetteville FD (Cumberland)
- Lake Rim FD > Fayetteville FD (Cumberland)
- Lucama FD > Crossroads FD (Wilson)
- Manteo FD + Wanchese FD > Roanoke Island FD (Dare)
- Mt. Tabor FD > Vienna FD (Forsyth)
- Mt. Ulla-Bear Poplar FD + Centenary FD > West Rowan FD (Rowan)
- North Asheboro FD > Asheboro FD (Randolph)
- Pinoca FD > West Mecklenburg FD (Mecklenburg)
- Rocky River FD + Locust FD > West Stanly FD (Stanly)
- Salter Path FD > Indian Beach FD (Carteret)
- Shiloh FD + Oakland FD + Danieltown FD > Shiloh-Danieltown-Oakland FD (Rutherford)
- Six Forks FD > Bay Leaf FD (Wake)
- South Fork FD > Clemmons FD (Forsyth)
- South Gastonia FD > Crowder's Mountain FD (Gaston)
- Spray FD + Leaksville FD + Draper FD > Eden FD (Rockingham)

- St. Timothy FD > Conover FD (Catawba)
- Startown FD > Newton FD (Catawba)
- Tyler Town FD > North Raeford FD (Hoke)
- Viewmont FD > Hickory FD (Catawba)
- Wake Forest FD #2 > Wake Forest FD (Wake)
- West Asheville FD > Asheville FD (Buncombe)
- Wilkinson Boulevard FD + Moores Chapel FD > West Mecklenburg FD (Mecklenburg)
- Winecoff FD > Kannapolis FD (Cabarrus)

I think Long Acre VFD in Beaufort County merged with Pinetown VFD
Steven (Email) - 03/24/12 - 12:25

I understand that Beaver Lane FD in Union County was a merger of Beaver Lane Rescue Squad & Marshville FD from talking with one of their members.
bfd1151 - 03/24/12 - 14:22

West Sanford Rural FD merged/absorbed by Northview Rural FD in Lee County last year.
CFD72 - 03/24/12 - 23:52

Manchester FD was absorbed Spring Lake FD in Cumberland county in the mid 90s i believe
justin - 03/25/12 - 09:24

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Emergency Cigar Delivery Vehicle

03/25/12 61 W, 2 I - + 11 - 3

Seen this weekend in North Myrtle Beach. Top is a converted Chevrolet ambulance or rescue truck outside Nick's Cigar World on Kings Highway. Bottom is a gutted Ford pumper outside a pawn shop, also on Kings Highway. That one's seen better days. See a prior posting with four other old engines from there. Click to enlarge:

Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

MOVED - Fort Fisher Fire Departments

12/17/14 19 W - + 13 - 12

This content has been moved to http://legeros.com/history/military/fort-fisher/

(Kure Beach is New Hanover County.)
The old Fort Fisher Air Base fire station was two bays if I remember correctly. I was a grommet then. I think it had an old Mack CF Engine which they donated to Federal Point after they closed. I don't think the building is still there.
Ryan - 03/25/12 - 23:18

http://www.arff.info/forums/archive/inde..

When Ft. Fisher was an active operation there was one fire protection specialist (the fire chief) assigned to the station. He/she had about 15 augmentees (polite military term to tell you that you're a volunteer) assigned to assist during fire operations. We got those people one day a month for training. Other duties for the chief were everything else that dealt with fire protection. I also had the additional duty of site safety officer. We had a 530B pumper (later replaced by a P-8D). If there was a fire they blew the base siren and everyone ran to the fire station and called operations on the phone to see where to go. It was definately an interesting assignment.
Google Find - 03/26/12 - 12:04

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Yes
No

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Topsail Towers - Operation Bumblebee

03/25/12 215 W, 1 I - + 10 - 4

At the end of World War II, the United States Navy established a missile testing facility on Topsail Island. The site was one of three along the Atlantic coast, part of a top-secret project for assembling, firing, monitoring, and perfecting experimental ramjet missiles. Navy and Marine personnel, numbering 500 men, arrived in mid-1946 to begin installing the necessary facilities. The buildings included a number of masonry observation towers that are still standing, both beach- and sound-side.

The site was placed in operation in March 1947. They launched an estimated 200 rockets over the next 18 months. The site was closed, as the location didn't meet the needs of a permanent base due to weather conditions and increased sea traffic. But the towers are still standing, as is the assembly building, which most recently was converted to the museum about the program. Read a bit more on this Wikipedia page. Or read a detailed history via Google books in Ray McAllister's *Topsail Island: Mayberry by the Sea*. Very good history there. Some of the structures are also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Read the documentation from 1993, which contains quite a bit of details.

See photos by Mike Legeros.

Read detailed information about each tower.

Mike there is also a lot of history associated with this operation in the nearby town of Holly Ridge, 5 miles north of the island on Hwy 50. That's where a military base called Camp Davis was established in the 1940's to support Operation Bumblebee. You can google it and find a lot of information. Some of the building foundations are still visible on Hwy 50 and an air strip is still present today and being used by Camp LeJeune and New River Air Station. Jusy a little extra info, buddy.

Don Johnson - 03/25/12 - 11:59

Thanks, Don. Sounds like I need to plan another visit down there, to poke around the Camp Davis site, as well as find those other towers!

Legeros - 03/25/12 - 13:31

Updated with more photos and corrected locations and information about the towers. Think I got them all straight, now!

Legeros - 03/31/12 - 00:42

Name: (real name preferred)

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Web Site: (optional)

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- No

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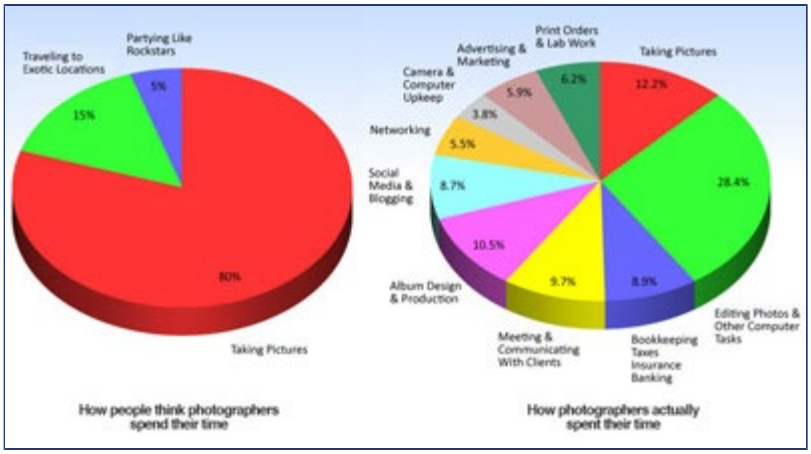
How Photographers Spend Their Time

03/26/12 45 W, 1 I - + 11 - 7

Credit this great graphic to www.ispwp.com, in a posting titled *The Secret Life of Wedding Photographers*. It translates pretty well to fire photographers. Absolutely great graphic. Will party like a rock star for food. Click to enlarge:



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Caption This Photo / Big Drum

03/28/12 94 W, 1 I - + 10 - 5

Wake & District Public Safety Pipes and Drums participated in Sunday's ceremony at the Falls fire station, celebrating the merger (e.g. operational consolidation) of the Falls Fire Department and the Wake Forest Fire Department. See earlier posting about same. See event photos from Legeros. The pictures were made with a pair of Canon DSLR cameras, one short lens and one long. External flash with diffuser, sometimes bounced, sometimes direct. Crazy lighting conditions at times. Slowly, steadily getting better at indoor photos.

When did Uncle Fester learn to play the drums?

This is John Lovett. He is quite a drummer and has played with the Top Secret drum corp. Youtube them. Pretty cool
Mike - 03/28/12 - 13:57

What kind of ISO can that lens give for night photos???
2redline - 03/28/12 - 23:25

"...wonder if I get a hawaiian print shirt to match my kilt…"
Joe Brady (Email) (Web Site) - 03/30/12 - 14:17

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment:

/ Textile

Cary Rescue 2 Revealed

03/28/12 56 W, 1 I - + 10 - 6

Here's a nice shot of Cary Rescue 2 with all compartments open and the light tower in action. Photographer Lee Wilson snapped this and some others yesterday. See more photos. The 2012 Pierce Velocity is one of two delivered in January, along with a 2012 Pierce Velocity platform also delivered that month.

Lee Wilson photo

Welcome to the area. Take a look at this thread, where the trucks were discussed and such questions were asked already: http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..

Legeros - 03/28/12 - 22:06

I think it's a good question, LAFD. Raleigh currently has 3 rescues. Soon Raleigh will be sending 2 ladder companies on all structure fire calls compared to the current 1 ladder on residential structure fire calls (4E,1L,1R,1BC) and 2 ladders on commercial and multi-residential (4E,2L,1R,1BC). When the change takes place near the end of this year Raleigh will be dropping down to only 1 heavy rescue which will have a minimum staffing of 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, and 4 Firefighters.

Rescue Ranger - 03/28/12 - 22:47

Rescue Ranger- RFD is increasing its rescue staffing? This is a great step in the right direction… 6 people on a rescue!!! Congrats to RFD for recognizing the need for additonal people on a necessary unit!

Bob P. - 03/28/12 - 23:45

I will believe it when I see it on paper! Not trying be ugly but all the fluff about us going to 1 rescue with 6 versus 2 rescues with 4. Every couple weeks we hear it flip floping back and forth! Most of us know 2 with 4 would fit us better! But just like every fire truck has a tail board big or small, it's just my 2 cents! But just for fun since we are discussing it lets talk about where to put the one heavy rescue? 9 is the center of the city, also we talked about it at work and a easy way to use our current rescues to ride 6, just take out the inside/cab storage compartment and put 2 seats in it like the new engines! Any way cool truck Cary! congrates!

Jason Lane - 03/29/12 - 02:20

Congrats to Raleigh for the upcoming reconfiguration! Is the City going to buy a new heavy rig or utilize one of the current Pierce rescues?

Charlie H - 03/29/12 - 03:56

The town of Cary has duel companies with well staffed apparatus at every station. They have the money to spend on apparatus, (overkill or not) to protect there citizens while still giving the crews raises… more power to them. I am glad I live and work in Cary's fire district.
Brian - 03/29/12 - 11:59

Oops Dual*
Brian - 03/29/12 - 21:31

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Committee Approves Land Acquisition for Fire Station 29

03/28/12 122 W - + 10 - 4

Press release. The Raleigh City Council Budget and Economic Development Committee has approved acquisition of two parcels for the construction of Fire Station 29. The City of Raleigh Fire Department has been working with Williard Ferm Architects, P.A. for the development of the Fire Station 29 site located at 12113 Leesville Road. As a part of the design process it became apparent that the assemblage of additional property would greatly reduce the construction cost of the facility. The committee has approved the condemnation of one property and the swap of another. The property acquisitions must be approved by the entire City Council. They will be considered at the Council's April 3 meeting. Read entire press release.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Reader Mail - March 2012

03/28/12 578 W - + 11 - 5

Let's open the mailbag. Low creative energies at this time. And since I am already reading and filing mail at this moment...

Q: Mike, I saw this in the Wilmington paper. Thought you may be interested in it .Enjoy your website very much. http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20120224/ARTICLES/120229802/1004/

A: Thanks, that's an interesting story about the city testing preemption technology for stoplights.

--

Q: Hey Mike, some New Bern Fire Department trailers were recently broken into. If you can pass the word around up there about this, we would greatly appreciate. There are some low people out there. http://www.newbernsj.com/articles/equipment-105333-fire-burglary.html.

A: Thanks for the story link. Saw that FireNews.net had posted same. I will add to my next posting of morning or evening reading.

--

Q: Someone showed me a fire bucket they owned a while back and asked why the bottom of the bucket is rounded, and not able to stand up on it own. I could not think of a reason. I saw a similar bucket in the Raleigh Fire Museum. Do you know why they are made that way?

A: Such buckets had rounded bottoms so they couldn't be re-purposed for regular use. You couldn't set them down, or they'd roll over. Thus they had to hang on a wall, for fire use only.

--

Q: I have an idea for a blog topic. In Montgomery County, VA, earlier this month, the death of retired firefighter was reported. He had just retired from Elliston Volunteer FD, where he served as a member for 55 years. It may be interesting hear from your readers about some of the long-time firefighters in various departments around Raleigh and Wake County, and also who some of the long-time chief officers (past and present) are or were. Just an idea.

A: That's an intriguing idea. Let me ponder that one. And shoot back your thoughts on this, readers. How would one start such a quest?

--

Q: I moved to Raleigh with an old scanner my dad had, and since all the frequencies have changed, it will not pick up anything. What kind do I need to get to pick up police, EMS, etc? I think from what my neighbor told me, who is a Raleigh Police Officer, that I need a 800 megahertz? Also, do you know where I can get one that will not cost me a arm and a leg?

A: If you want to listen to Raleigh FD dispatches only (154.370) or Wake County FD dispatches only (154.190), a simple/old VHF scanner will work fine. But to hear the cross-traffic, a digital trunking 800 mhz scanner is required. Those run in the $300+ range. Some years ago, the local agencies migrated from VHF to the statewide VIPER system. The two "alert" talkgroups, above, are rebroadcast on VHF, for the benefit of people with analog pagers. You could also "sample" the waters by listening to online feeds. Maybe start looking around here: http://www.radioreference.com/apps/db/?ctid=1978 and http://www.radioreference.com/apps/audio/?ctid=1978

--

Q: Hey, I was looking at a Radio Shack scanner on sale, PRO-163 1000-Channel Triple Trunking Scanner. Do you have any experience with it?

A: I don't believe that scanner is capable of monitoring our local VIPER traffic, e.g. the public safety talkgroups. See this thread: http://forums.radioreference.com/north-carolina-radio-discussion-forum/218132-martin-county-nc-new-frequencies.html

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Name: (real name preferred)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

Post Comment | Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

March Episode of FireWatch - Firefighters Recounts Flashover

03/29/12 115 W, 1 I - + 10 - 5

The March 2012 episode of the Raleigh Fire Department's cable television series FireWatch is now available online. In the latest episode, Fire Educator Ron Campbell talks with Raleigh Fire Department Capt. Alan Lee, Senior Firefighter Shane Canady, and Senior Firefighter Marty Pleasant from Engine 2, about their experiences and lessons learned at a flashover at a recent house fire in Garner.

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. (Also check this page, and scroll down about halfway, for links to all past episodes.)

Name: (real name preferred)

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- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Tanker Rollover in Graham County

03/29/12 60 W, 1 I - + 14 - 5

FireNews.net has posted photos of yesterday's tanker rollover in Graham County. The apparatus from Stecoah Fire Department overturned on Highway 28 near Fontana. The driver received minor injuries. Notes the story, one of the first people on scene was a retired fire chief from Florida who was hiking the Appalachian Trail.

FireNews.net photo

Name: (real name preferred)

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- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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

Post Comment | Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Commercial Roof Collapse Close Call - What it Looks Like

03/30/12 42 W, 1 I - + 11 - 4

Single-story commercial structure in Dearborn, Michigan, yesterday. See this Firefighter Close Calls posting or this Statter911 story. Both with links to high-quality, very-close aerial footage from WXYZ-TV.

Click On Detroit photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Notify: ☐ Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: ☐ Yes, hide my email address.

Ladder Climbers: Female Fire Captains Love Their Careers

03/30/12 131 W, 1 I - + 14 - 2

The Greensboro *News & Record* published this story last week by staff writer Taft Wireback. Great opening paragraphs: "Save your 'Gee whiz, ain't that cute?' reaction for some other challenge to gender stereotypes. City fire [Captains] Wendy Cheek and Carol Key say that they and hundreds of other female firefighters nationwide have moved way beyond that." The article is a profile of the Greensboro Fire Department's two highest-ranking female firefighters on active duty. The department has 25 female members in its ranks of 500-plus. (Doesn't say if that's line personnel or all personnel.) Theirs is heritage going back 30 years and which has produced a Deputy Chief along the way. Read the story.

Jerry Wolford/News & Record photo

Name: (real name preferred)

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Web Site: (optional)

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- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

Airport Drill, 1979

03/31/12 105 W, 1 I - + 14 - 7

While we ramp up (ha!) for this morning's disaster drill at the airport (camera, check. Umbrella, check), here's a blast from the past on that subject. November 4, 1979. Alarm sounded at 2:33 p.m. Within 30 seconds, recounted the news account, crash trucks were spraying water on smoke bombs. Eleven minutes later, Morrisville fire units arriving and began administering aid to the "patients." Response times from off-airport are considerably better three decades later. We might even have some readers who were there, and can tell about the "old days" at the airport fire department. Click to enlarge:

News & Observer photo

Yep. I was working that day. We even landed a MAST chopper from Ft Bragg. Of course, that patient had already been transported, along with a few other 'trauma' patients to Rex….

DJ - 03/31/12 - 15:05

More- On that day I was riding 2nd on #4 (then called CT-4). We had upstaffed for the drill to two per truck (we normally had, at that time, four people total on duty during the day and three at night). My job that day was to get out and 'triage' the 'victims'. I remember the three there that are in the picture at the 'beam'. My 'triage' kit that day consisted of a carpenter's apron (emblazoned with 'RDU CFR'), dozens of triage tags, fishing weights, and a hole puncher. I filled out a tag for each person, and tied it to them. I tore off a perforated corner of the tag, punched a hole in it, and attached one of the fishing weights to it, and then dropped it at the patient's location. Each tag, as well as the tear-off corners, had a serial number. By matching the numbers on the corners I dropped to the main tag number, FAA investigators would know where each patient was found, aiding in their investigation of the crash. I also had to wear full turnout gear while triaging that day- cotton duck turnout coat and pants with nylon liners, leather gloves from Pete's Hardware in Cary, and my brand new Cairns #770 Philadelphina helmet, complete with my number (9) on the front in Scotchlite, and EMERG MED TECH crescents on each side.

Oh yeah, and the reason it only took 30 seconds to begin spraying the smoke pots? The 'crash site' was about 100 yards from the fire station.

DJ - 03/31/12 - 19:30

Thanks for the memories, Dale. We really need a picture of you then to go with the narrative!

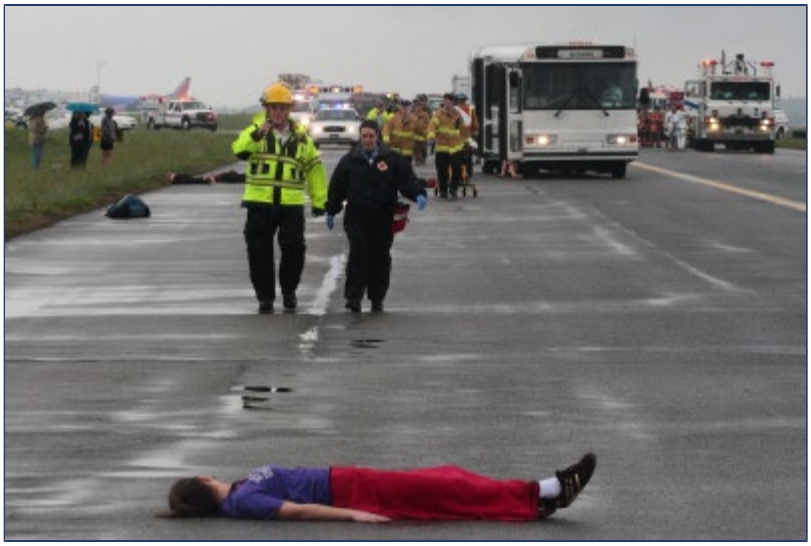
Legeros - 03/31/12 - 23:23

Mike- there is a slide somewhere. I will see if I can find it.

Airport Drill, 2012

03/31/12 133 W, 1 I - + 14 - 9

Here's the "now" photo from today's disaster drill at Raleigh-Durham International Airport. No smoke bombs this time, but quite a bit of real rain. The bus in the background was serving as a section of fuselage. Airport Emergency Services were first on scene, followed fire and EMS units from Wake and Durham counties. All were staged on airport property, but staggered their responses to replicate actual travel times. They included RDU CFR, Raleigh FD, Morrisville FD, Cary FD, Parkwood FD, Bethesda FD, Durham Highway FD, Wake County EMS, Cary EMS, Apex EMS, Eastern Wake EMS, Parkwood EMS, and Durham EMS. (Who got missed?) Plus law enforcement, fire marshal offices, emergency management, and more. Photos by Legeros forthcoming. Give me a day or so. Click to enlarge this picture.



Great photos of the Sky Drill.
Philyaw - 04/04/12 - 01:37

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Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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

Attack of the Batmobiles!

03/31/12 107 W, 1 I - + 16 - 10

Now let's get our geek on with footage from Josh Turchetta shot last night in Hollywood, where Warner Brothers gathered five Batmobiles for filming. There's the 1966 television version by George Barris. There's the 1989 film version designed by Anton Furst for *Batman* and *Batman Returns*. There are the Schumacher sequel versions, from *Batman Forever* and *Batman and Robin*. And finally the Tumbler from the Christopher Nolan films *Batman Begins* and *The Dark Knight*. Wouldn't you love to take any of those babies for a spin? That's Danny Elfman's music from *Batman Returns* as background music, methinks. Big nod to AICN. Click to watch:

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

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Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Post Comment | Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

(Re)Announcing www.RFD100.com

04/01/12 132 W, 1 I - + 11 - 1

The Raleigh Fire Department is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Special events are planned including a birthday party in downtown Raleigh on Saturday, June 16. The celebration starts with a parade at 10:00 a.m. Departments and antique owners throughout the southeast are invited. After the parade, there'll be an apparatus muster with static displays and antique pumping demonstrations. As well as firefighter games, with four challenge events are planned. Fire departments throughout the state are invited to send teams. Plus activities that day for kids and their parents. Plus a shuttle bus to the fire museum. And a few more surprises. Learn more at **www.RFD100.com**, which was re-launched this weekend with an all-new site design and updated content.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Morning Reading - April 1, 2012

04/01/12 512 W - + 8 - 5

No fooling here. Busy with other things. Maybe can craft some satirical or spoofing postings tonight. Processing photos this morning from yesterday's airport drill. Maybe 350 keepers. Maybe more. Dreadful to think how many pictures would have resulted on a sunny day! Guess holding an umbrella didn't prove too hampering. Still another day need to get those posted.

- Dial 919 not 911 - That's my headline for yesterday's News & Observer story about mandatory 10-digit dialing in the Triangle and the increase in accidental 911 calls. Makes sense that telephone systems ignore subsequent digits after the second "1" follows the sequence "9" and "1". Believe at least one local television station also covered that story.

- Knightdale to change policy on volunteers for fire department - FireNews.net posting of Eastern Wake News story, about the town's efforts to craft a new personnel policy with regard to nepotism. Three volunteer firefighters were fired on February 29, prohibiting employment of married couples or kinfolk.

- Who was Bum Farto? - The infamous story of a Key West Fire Chief as recounted by Tom Parquette as three-part series on Firegeezer.com. Read part one, and part two, and part three. Then take a photo tour of the area with Yours Truly and pictures of the Key West fire museum, historic Key West firehouses, and some old missile towers in town.

- Speaking of the beach - Last weekend saw a short trip to Myrtle Beach and with a return ride by way of Topsail Island. All photos were taken with a iPhone 4S and posted in real-time to Facebook. Pretty good results, though battery issues were an issue. And, um, forgot to share the photo album on day one. So nobody saw anything until that evening. See for yourself: photos from the road and the Topsail towers.

- How does $1,000 for house fires and $600 for car fires grab you? - CBS New York story about a Passaic, NJ, proposal to charge for fire calls. Saw this one as a headline on Drudge, and was also reader-submitted. Number of interesting issues there. But what are the unintended consequences? Makes me think of a discussion once had with a veteran responder, and his take on why citizens regard 'medics (and EMS services) differently than firefighters (and fire departments). Because, he noted, the former is the only one of the two that sends you a bill after you call them. What say you?

- When firefighters argue - That's my headline for a Statter911 posting about a house fire in Glenn Dale, Maryland, and raw video from Tom Yeatman of the Prince Georges County Fire Department. There are 99 comments so far and they're pretty heated throughout. Why do firefighters like to argue so much? Is simply (and perhaps admirably) a function of their passion for the profession? Does social media or the ability to anonymous post comments add, er, fuel to that fire? Dave's site is my favorite for such things. Things never seem to get too personal, nor stray too far off-topic.

Talking about chargeing for fires. Many departments in Johnston county are chargeing for MVC's. If you land a helicopter it can pay out in excess of $1200. The insurance companies are the ones getting billed through a contracted company with the county.
911 - 04/02/12 - 13:40

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

Remember personal info?
( ) Yes
(•) No

Here They Come

04/01/12 95 W, 1 I - + 9 - 5

Let's have another picture from yesterday's drill at the airport. Still in the process of post-processing. Heard it's Sunday afternoon already and it might even be sunny outside! This shot is more low-resolution than high-resolution, due to lower light, higher ISO, and a fair amount of cropping. The guy with the camera (cough, cough) should've been a bit closer. Canon 40 D with an EF 70-200mm f/4L lens. Focal length 184mm. Program AE mode. 1/1600 shutter, 13.0 aperature. ISO of 1600. Saved as RAW, processed using Canon Digital Photo Professional. Click to enlarge:

Great pick, looks almost staged ;) Cool to see how they are staggered so the drivers can see rather than just play follow the leader
Adam - 04/01/12 - 14:55

We typically do stagger and the drivers communicate on a private channel on intentions (i.e. if passing or stopping short, going wide etc....)
CFR - 04/01/12 - 19:31

8V92 sounding off
Rob Mitchell - 04/01/12 - 21:58

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

Old Engine Near McGee's Crossroads

04/02/12 71 W, 1 I - + 7 - 4

Lee Wilson photographed this old soldier last week, a Ford/Oren/Grumman engine that served Sarecta Fire Department in Duplin County. Former Engine 4. The truck is located off Highway 50 near McGee's Crossroads. That's also near Stephenson's Bar-B-Q, which is north of Highway 210 on Highway 50. Best barbecue (on bone) in these parts, says me. See more photos (of the engine, not of 'cue).

Lee Wilson photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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

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Haz-Mat 2 Moved to Station 27

04/02/12 138 W, 1 I - + 8 - 4

The Raleigh Fire Department has affected some changes to its hazardous materials team effective yesterday, April 1. Notable is the moving of Haz-Mat 2 from Station 15 to Station 27. Their respective crews also swapped station. The lower call volume will help the engine company members with time requirements for their haz-mat duties.

Haz-Mat 2 is one of two tractor-drawn haz-mat trucks operated by the city. The 1995 International/Hackney is operated as part of North Carolina Haz-Mat Regional Response Team 4.

The units are Haz-Mat 1 at Station 2 (2006 Freightliner/Hackney), SR1 at Station 2 (1991 Simon-Duplex/E-One, haz-mat support), SR2 at Station 8 (2008 Ford F-350 Super Duty plus cargo trailers, air monitoring/recon), and SR3 at Station 22 (2005 Ford F-550 prime mover plus fifth-wheel decon trailer). Memo to self: update my web pages. See a few more photos from Lee Wilson.

Lee Wilson photo

Name: (real name preferred)

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Mini Tank and Mother Engine, 1969

04/02/12 189 W, 1 I - + 10 - 7

Here's an intriguing find from eBay, a concept drawing of an airport fire engine published in the *Boston Herald* on April 27, 1969. The caption read "mini tank and mother engine." Google finds a couple archived new stories about the drawing. UPI out of Frankfurt, Germany, reported: "The solution to the ever-present danger of landing or takeoff crashes, intensified by the 400-plus passenger capacity of a jumbo jet, is a small, radio-controlled mini-tank capable of climbing over blazing wreckage and blasting a fire-free patch to passengers with a foam cannon."

The article notes the "mini tank" is "about the size of a child's pedal automobile, can be released down a ramp, and directed from the cab." The small unit is connected via an asbestos-lined hose. Three West German firms were building the truck for Fire Chief Ernst Achilles at a cost of about $200,000. The Chief's inspiration came from a German World War II failure, a radio-controlled tiny tank called the "Goliath" that was unsuccessfully used against Russian tanks. Wonder what the prototype looked like?

Name: (real name preferred)

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Remember personal info?

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Comment: / Textile

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

Early History of Falls Fire Department

04/03/12 1317 W - + 6 - 5

Here's an early history of the Falls Fire Department, which merged last weekend with the Wake Forest Fire Department. A version of this history was read during the ceremony by Asst. Chief Marcus Wells.

Background

The Falls community developed around the falls of the Neuse River in northern Wake County. The Falls of Neuse Community Club was incorporated with the state on November 19, 1954. Land for a community center at the presently addressed 11908 Falls of Neuse Road was donated in November 1954 by Erwin Cotton Mills. The lot size was 0.29 acres.[1]

Rural fire protection in the county started during that decade, with unincorporated communities around Raleigh and Wake Forest protected by newly forming fire departments such as Six Forks, Stony Hill, and Western Boulevard.

By the late 1960s, the Falls community relied upon fire protection from Stony Hill, Wake Forest, Rolesville, Wake-New Hope, Six Forks, and Bay Leaf fire departments. Each of those fire stations, however, was a fair distance from the community.

In 1969, the Falls Community Club, and with the advisement of then county commissioner Hal Trentman, took on the organization of the fire department as their project.

Incorporated

The Falls Volunteer Fire Department was incorporated with the state on July 7, 1970. Listed on the Articles of Incorporation were five directors:

- Melvin C. Jackson
- Bruce L. Fonville
- William H. Blackmon
- William D. Jackson
- Linwood E. Barham

The incorporators were listed as

- Melvin C. Jackson
- Linwood E. Barham
- William D. Jackson

First Apparatus

They purchased their first piece of fire apparatus was a converted Army 2 1/2-ton, three-axle truck with a 1,400 gallon water tank. The truck was purchased for $500 from the Durham Highway Fire Department. The money was raised through fundraisers, donations, and charging district patrons $10 to join the Falls Fire District Inc.

The second piece of fire apparatus purchased was a 1956 Ford/American pumper with a front mounted Barton pump. It was equipped with a 500 GPM pump and carried 500 gallons of water. It was bought from Six Forks Fire Department for $2,500.[2] The Ladies Auxiliary paid for most of the purchase, with money made from barbecues and craft shows.

Training and Equipment

The first Fire Chief was the late Sam Perry and the department had 24 members at the start. They received permission from the Falls Community Club to build two apparatus to be attached to the community center building. Most of the work was done by members of the department and was finished by contracted builders. Two years later, two more bays were added.

Firefighting equipment was purchased as money became available, while neighboring fire departments donated hose, nozzles, and more. Training was provided by Captain Jimmy Warren of the Raleigh Fire Department. He came out once a week and taught basic firefighting to the

members. At the time, only one member had any prior firefighting experience.

In the early years of the department, several members would attend a yearly week-long class at Wilson Technical Community College to get their training.

Water and Taxes

Since the nearest fire hydrants were 8 to 10 miles away, it became apparent that more water was needed in case there was a large fire. The department purchased a used oil truck from one of the local oil distributors. This unit was used as a second tanker. All three vehicles were parked in the two bays, until the other two bays were added.

On October 5, 1970 (see below), the Wake County Commissioners recognized Falls Volunteer Fire Department Inc. as a county department. A referendum was [later?] held and the residents of the Falls Fire District were asked to vote on receiving a 10 cent on the $100 dollar valuation of taxed property to support the fire department. The referendum passed by a vote of 42 for and two against. The first full year of tax revenues was $3,060.

Wake County provided each rural fire department $125 per month at the time, and also matched funds for communication equipment. The county's rural fire departments (18 plus Falls) were dispatched by the Raleigh Fire Department, from a communications center at Station 1.

Fire District

On October 5, 1970, County Civil Defense Director John C. Throne asked county commissioners to recognize the new Falls Fire Department district and approve its boundaries. They were presumably approved on that date.

The approval would allow the department to start operation, and which would result in lower fire insurance rates for residents. The fire department had 21 men at the time. The Board of Directors was led by Linwood Barham.

The 11-square mile district roughly bordered a six-mile stretch of Falls of Neuse Road, south to the present Ravenscroft School, east on Durant Road (then named Neuse Road) to the railroad tracks, west to Six Forks Road, and north to Highway 98. The district also included a northern section of Litchford Road.

The Falls Fire Department was assigned the Wake County fire station number 21.

More Apparatus

In 1974, the department bought its first new fire truck chassis. They mounted the 1,200-gallon tank from the oil tanker onto the 1973 Chevrolet chassis. The tank was also modified for a quick dump system. In 1977, with increased tax revenues, fundraisers, donations, and a loan from FHA, the department purchased its first completely new truck, a 1978 FMC/Bean pumper with a 750 GPM pump and a 750 gallon tank.

Other early and later apparatus:

- 1984 Chevrolet Custom Deluxe 30 brush truck, 250 gallons.
- 1984 Chevrolet Suburban, purchased used.
- 1987 Ford 8000/E-One pumper tanker, 1250 GPM pump, 1000 gallons.
- 1989 Ford 8000/E-One pumper tanker, 1250 GPM pump, 1000 gallons.
- 1994 E-One Sentry pumper tanker, 1250 GPM, 1000 gallons.

Falls Lake

In 1978, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers started construction of a dam at the river falls. Before that time, flooding of the Neuse River caused extensive damage to public and private properties down river. The Falls Lake project was created as a flood-control solution. The dam that holds the lake was completed in 1981. Among the changes created by the lake was the demolition of the Six Forks Road bridge. Today, Falls Lake is a 12,410 acre reservoir that extends into Durham and Granville counties.

First Responder

In the early 1980s, fire departments in Wake County began offering First Responder services. In 1984, the Falls Fire Department initiated the program. The decision was made due to the length response times of EMS units responding from Raleigh (Wake County EMS), Six Forks (Six Forks EMS), and Wake Forest (Northern Wake EMS).

Linwood E. Barham, a charter member, taught the First Responder class twice weekly. The first females also joined the fire department as a result of the First Responder program.

Paid Members and Duty Crews

In the 1980s, the call volume was increasing and the need for daytime personnel was growing. The department was also looking into buying land across the street from the community center for a new fire station. Since the department was not receiving enough revenues from the fire district tax base to do both, they decided to hire paid day personnel instead of buying land.

The first all-volunteer duty crew was started in 2002. They were paid beginning in 2008, and received 25 dollars a night.

River Rats

The department's nickname "River Rats" was used by Falls Community members when they played baseball against Stony Hill Community members, the "Possums". The community members took the name from a group of local young men in the community that called themselves "The River Rats."

[1]Erwin Mills operated in a three-story granite building that's still standing. The structure was built in 1890 and expanded in 1895. The following year, it was converted from a paper mill to a textile mille. The names changed over the years until finally Erwin Mills. The textile operations, mainly warehousing, discontinued in 1959. The building was renovated for condominiums, which were completed in 1996.

[2]Both pieces of apparatus were the first fire engines for the Durham Highway and Six Forks fire departments, respectively.

Sources:

- Falls Fire Department.
- Mike Legeros records.
- New Rural Fire Department Planned for Wake County - News & Observer, October 1, 1970.
- North Carolina Secretary of State Corporation Records.

I work for a fire hose company in Ohio that has warehouses throughout the United States. I have recently began to read various blogs about rural and volunteer fire departments, especially about funding, grants and training. Your blog about the history of your fire department is interesting and very good. I am going to check our archives and see if we have ever sent any fire hose to your fire department. Thanks for all that you do.

Keith Eriksen (Email) (Web Site) - 04/09/12 - 18:00

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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What They See

04/04/12 396 W - + 7 - 7

Dave Statter posted this nifty video this week of an apartment fire in Indianapolis. The thirteen-minute clip is citizen footage, probably shot by a neighbor, and depicting what looks like a fire in the attic space. This is what they saw as they watched and moved around (and in fairly close proximity) to the burning building. It's also a good example of what people see when there's a "contained fire" where they live. Some flames sprouting, some smoke showing, but most of what's happening is inside and thus outside their view. There's audio as well, and you can listen to their reactions (though they're speaking Spanish).

This clip gets me thinking about public education and particularly fire service marketing. What's the difference, you ask? Public education is the broad label. It encompasses everything from teaching children how to "stop, drop, and roll" to the detailed station tours given to community groups. But let's look at a hierarchy of needs. The greatest priority is certainly citizen safety. Teaching the basics, such as (a.) how to react in a fire, (b.) how to escape a fire, and (c.) how to contact the fire department. The next level is probably contextual. What the fire department does, where the fire stations are located, why they send a fire truck when you call for an ambulance, etc. And from there, we start sliding into marketing.

What is marketing? We'll define the "M" as "communicating the value of something for someone else." But if everyone already knows that a fire department is necessary to extinguish fires when they happen, why is marketing needed? That's where this video gets me thinking. Communicating / explaining / teaching some of the basics of how fire departments do their work. Why do they take their hoses inside, for example, instead of spraying water from the outside (and from the moment they arrive)?

From there, the questions come rapidly. Logistics. How the heck do you communicate to such a large and diverse (including non-English speaking) audience? Resources. If you're already taxed performing core public education, where's the time or talent for more comprehensive marketing? Value. And what are your measurements? How do you quantity or qualify that marketing worked? Good questions, and maybe a good discussion starter this morning. Either here or where you are.

Navy Lab Tests Firefighting Robots

04/05/12 31 W - + 5 - 3

Found on the Firehouse.com forums. Here's the accompanying story, from AolDefense. But will they add a big bushy mustache to the final version?

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

Post Comment | Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Morning Reading - April 6, 2012

04/06/12 280 W - + 5 - 8

Good morning Raleigh. Holiday weekend and with good weather during the day hours. Bit chilly at night, though this Minnesota-born boy doesn't mind it. Will take cold over hot any day. Couple articles for your Friday reading...

- Asheville bridge to be renamed for Capt. Jeff Bowen - The state Board of Transportation yesterday reversed an earlier decision regarding renaming Smoky Park Bridge in Asheville for fallen firefighter Capt. Jeff Bowen. They unanimously reversed their March 7 decision, citing considerable public concern. Many parties campaigned for the decision to be overturned, including over 7,700 people who signed an online petition.

- Local blogger medic wants Interstate 40 bridge renamed for fallen EMT - Taking inspiration from the state's decision, local blogger medic Dale Johnson is starting a campaign to remember Michael Jackson. He was a part-time EMT for Mid South Ambulance Service in Smithfield, and was killed on Interstate 40 just west of Harrison Avenue on February 5, 1995. He and his partner had stopped to help at an motor-vehicle accident. Jackson was struck when the brakes failed on a truck that struck his ambulance, and that struck and killed him instantly.

- Baltimore Fire Department announces company closures - Statter911 reports on yesterday's announcement by BCFD to close Truck 10, Truck 15, and Squad 11 on July 1. They'll also move Engine 33, Truck 27, Truck 6, and Rescue 1. The changes are part of the department's efforts to end rotating closures. Among the reporting is the inclusion of slides from a presentation on the department's strategic analysis. Gives a little peek into the sausage-making process. Doesn't look like the Baltimore City Watch Desk is alive with the topic, yet. Believe participation on that forum has dropped in recent years.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Raleigh Fire Museum Photo Card

04/06/12 181 W, 1 I - + 13 - 5

Advertising is tricky. You want their attention, but also their trust. Whatever you're showing or selling or promoting, it's lose-lose if the targeted audience goes away unhappy. Thus this photo card that we've designed for the Raleigh Fire Museum. That's the 501(c)3 non-profit organization formerly named the Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society.

The photo's from a last year's shoot at Station 28, where the city's antique apparatus are stored. And it's a compelling photo and seemingly ready-made for advertising. Slap the museum name and be done, right? Maybe not quite. The museum's located in a classroom trailer at the Keeter Training Center, 105 Keeter Center Drive. The antique are stored at Station 28, 3500 Forestville Road. Two separate locations on two sides of town.

Thus a bit more explanation is needed. And a clear explanation, so a museum visitor doesn't expect a larger facility filled with fire trucks. (That's the long-term plan.) Thus the two attractions listed under the museum name on photo below. Much better. Much clearer. See you next Saturday, April 14, at the museum. Click to enlarge:

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

Aftermath of Virginia Beach Fighter Crash

04/07/12 180 W, 1 I - + 8 - 8

Found in this Firegeezer post, here's a nifty Navy photo of the aftermath of yesterday's F-18 crash into an apartment complex in Virginia Beach. Here's the original high-resolution image from the US Navy. Observe the crash truck that's between the buildings in the center of the frame. Anyone seen a run card for this incident yet? The jet landed in the courtyard, which was miraculous unto itself. Google for coverage, or visit your regular fire blogs and news sites for more. Click to enlarge:

US Navy photo

Here's the caption, from www.navy.mil:

> 120406-N-DC018-423 VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (April 6, 2012) Firefighting foam covers the scene of a crash of an F/A-18D Hornet assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106, April 6, 2012. Initial reports indicate that at approximately 12:05 p.m., the jet crashed just after takeoff at an apartment complex in Virginia Beach. Both air crew safely ejected from the aircraft and are being treated at a local hospital. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Antonio P. Turretto Ramos/Released)

This looks like it would have been taken from VBFD Ladder 8 (a tower).

harkey - 04/07/12 - 11:21

You can bet that scene perimeter got real tight real quick!

I am reminded of a story of the fighter jet crash in Morehead City, in 1983. Was the year I went to college, and had been away from Morehead for maybe two weeks? As the story goes, the jet entered the front door of a house, and the residents went out the back door. But before maybe even the MCFD fire chief had arrived on scene, military police were already there and had secured the scene. Maybe someone with more than an 18 year-old's memory (at the time) can add or correct on that one.

Legeros - 04/07/12 - 11:24

Here's a run card, posted by Jeff Harkey to the Facebook page of Virginia Beach fire photographer Martin Grube. Unit information from fireground audio that he transcribed:

First Alarm:
BC1, E11, E8, E3, Navy E31, L11, L8, Fire Squad 3, R12, R14, R8, Safety 1.

Second Alarm:
Believe there was a dispatch error. Third alarm may have been the second, and the subsequent special units may have been the third.

Third Alarm:
BC3, BC4, E12, E21, E5, E16B, L21, 1720R, 921R, 1922R, Zone16.

Additional Units:
SQ10, L16, ARFF7, C2, C1, C7, BC2, EMS3, 5, 6, C8, Zone14, Zone8, 827R, EMS3, 1425, 1420R.

Fourth Alarm:
E5B, E20, E17, L9, R1214, 1426, 523B.

Fifth Alarm:
E5B, E20, E17, L9, R1214, 1426, 523B.

Additional Units:
E202, E4, E1, L1.

According to Wikipedia, WBFD has 20 engines (some of which are telesquirts), seven ladders, two squads, and some special units.
Legeros - 04/07/12 - 16:34

It is nothing short of a miracle that no one was killed.
Marcus - 04/08/12 - 01:24

Here's the fireground audio for same. Good listening! http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=pla..
Legeros - 04/08/12 - 10:48

I don't remember the crash in Morehead but while assigned as Captain at one of the Prisons in Hoke Co. They had a couple crashes within a mile or 2 of the prisons. A helicopter in the late 90,s with several deaths and a special ops plane with 1 death. I had several Vol. Fireman who worked for me and in both cases they said when there departments arrived military personnel had already arrived and denied civilian firefighters to approach the crash sites. And they waited for Fort Bragg Fire Department to arrived and extinguish the fires and handle the scenes.
Galax,VA - 04/08/12 - 15:29

Here's a Star-News article on the Morehead City crash. EA-6B prowler crashed into a house on Shepard Street in August 1983. Two civilian injuries, one transported by helicopter to a hospital in Winston-Salem. Four crewmen ejected.

http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=ht5..
Legeros - 04/08/12 - 15:34

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

Remember personal info?
○ Yes
◉ No

Comment: / Textile

Mystery Commercial Structure Fire

04/08/12 50 W - + 7 - 2

Found while searching YouTube for any footage (rare chance, admittedly) of the multi-alarm house fire in New Bern yesterday. Posted in September 2007, so was probably around that time frame. Location believed to be outside Greenville, ~~NC~~ SC. How quickly will our readers identify this one...

---

mike, ain,t that Greenville,SC? At least that's where FOX. Carolina television is located.
Galax,VA - 04/08/12 - 12:00

I think you are right on the correct Carolina. That also explains the SC tag on the YouTube post.
Legeros - 04/08/12 - 12:01

Also noticed engines and ladders were white with green stripe and I have seen several departments in the Asheville areal with that combo. Now that I think about it I see more white in the mountain depts. than I used to see when we lived in the east and Sandhills.
Galax,VA - 04/08/12 - 15:16

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ Textile

Old Truck 6 - 1922 American LaFrance Type 14

04/08/12 136 W, 1 I - + 8 - 3

Actually the original Truck 6, a 1922 American LaFrance Type 14 combination service truck that was placed in service at Station 6 on June 27, 1949. Prior to that time, it served as Truck 2 at Station 2 and Service Truck 1 at Station 1. While at Station 1, from 1922 to 1941, it was part of a two-piece ladder company. For some fire calls, personnel took the aerial ladder. For others, they took the service truck.

This *News & Observer* photo is from April 1958, when the truck was a mere 36 years old! Look closely and you'll see the familiar equipment. It was removed service on July 24, 1961. The ladder rack was placed on a 1963 Ford chassis. The rest of the truck sat behind Station 8 until sold as surplus on December 20, 1976. Read more about the truck. Click to enlarge:

News & Observer photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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After The Fire

04/08/12 49 W, 3 I - + 9 - 3

Scenes from a structure fire on East Lenoir Street early this afternoon. One-story residence. Crews are still on scene. Photos from Legeros forthcoming. These are long-lens shots.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

Duck Rescue, Trench Rescue in Durham

04/09/12 256 W - + 5 - 5

Here's a pair of recent stories about unusual rescues in Durham. Last Saturday, reported this *News & Observer* story, the Durham Fire Department responded to Southpoint Mall to save 13 duckings that had fallen into a storm drain. Engine 16, which staffs the department's USAR team and operates a Sutphen quint, arrived about 1:00 p.m. One firefighter climbed down into the drain and was able to scoop out most of the birds. A few had wandered into a separate pipe, so they were flushed to safety (there's a phrase you don't hear often enough) using a hose. The entire operation took about 40 minutes. We'll add a few duck puns later. Rescue most fowl. Crews quacked up. Etcetera.

Durham and Bahama firefighters performed a trench rescue a couple weeks ago, reported this *Durham Herald* story. They received the call about 6:50 p.m. at a residence at 603 Appaloosa Trail. They found a man trapped in an eight-foot deep trench, where a dirt wall had collapsed on two men doing waterproofing and drainage work. One escaped, but the other was buried to his chest. Among the Durham firefighter's rescue techniques was placing a ladder from the ground through a window in the house, to secure a rope under the man's arms. Five different firefighters worked in shifts in the ditch (and in the rain), and freed the man at 9:13 p.m. He was transported with minor injuries. No firefighters were hurt, but their equipment was rendered mud-covered. And that's the dirt on that one.

They also had a high angle rescue of window washers a couple weeks ago

Mike - 04/09/12 - 14:01

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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UPDATED: Specification For Fire House on Jefferson Street, 1926

04/10/12 146 W, 1 I - + 6 - 4

For your Monday evening amusement and amazement, here's the original spec sheet for Fire Station 4 on Jefferson Street. The 32-page document is titled *Specification For Fire House on Jefferson Street, Glenwood, Raleigh, N.C., For the Raleigh Fire Department*. The author is H. P. S. Keller, Architect, of Raleigh.

The bungalow-style fire station was built just off Glenwood Avenue at 505 Jefferson Street. It operated until 1963 and still stands today. The station opened on June 15, 1926. Eight men were assigned there, one Captain, one Lieutenant, two Drivers, two Hose men, and two Hydrant men. The document was copied with the help of the City Clerk's office, who pulled some off-site records for Yours Truly some years ago.

Read the original specifications (PDF). **Link Fixed**

Learn more about the history of Station 4.

See vintage American LaFrance and Gamewell bid documents.

.pdf isnt working Mike
H2O - 04/10/12 - 14:58

The PDF link has been corrected. Thanks for notifying me.
Legeros - 04/10/12 - 19:03

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Raleigh Fire Department Centennial Celebration Starts with Retiree Luncheon

04/09/12 132 W - + 7 - 3

Press release. This year the Raleigh Fire Department celebrates 100 years as a full-time fire department. The first event to celebrate the fire department's centennial is a retiree luncheon to be held on Tuesday, April 10, at the Keeter Training Center. The annual chicken and rice luncheon was started eight years ago by the Raleigh Professional Fire Firefighters Association and its member firefighters who wanted to pay tribute to the retirees. This year, the luncheon has moved to the training center, so retirees can have portraits made for a centennial history book that is in production. The Raleigh Fire Museum also will be open during the event. Read the entire press release. Or learn more about the Raleigh Fire Department Centennial at www.RFD100.com.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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The Aftermath in Philadelphia

04/09/12 197 W, 1 I - + 11 - 3

Here's an aerial view of the aftermath in Philadelphia, where two firefighters were killed this morning at a five-alarm fire involving an abandoned factory and other buildings. The photo comes from WPVI-TV. There are probably better or wider shots coming, maybe in tomorrow's news. There's been ample coverage from both Philly outlets and fire news sites, such as PhillyFireNews.com and Statter911.com. Stories, photos, videos, fireground audio, etc.

Lt. Robert Neary and Firefighter Daniel Sweeney, from Ladder 10, died after a wall collapse in a furniture store adjacent to the original fire building. Lt. Neary, 60, was a 38-year veteran of the Philadelphia Fire Department. Firefighter Sweeney, 25, was a second-generation Philadelphia firefighter, and joined the department in July 2006. The collapse also seriously injured two others: Firefighter Pat Nally and Firefighter Francis Chaney.

As this FOX 29 story notes, the deaths are the first fatalities on duty since 2006. In January of that year, Firefighter Tracy Champion suffered a heart attack at a fire in West Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Fire Department has lost 288 career members (organized 1870) and 75 volunteer firefighters (organized 1736) in its 265-year history. (Check my numbers for accuracy, please.) Click to slightly enlarge:

WPVI-TV photo

Here's a graphic showing the buildings involved in the collapse, http://media.philly.com/images/20120410_... As found posted on the FireNews.net Facebook page.

Legeros - 04/10/12 - 19:06

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ Textile

Charlotte Fire Muster Circa 1990?

04/10/12 43 W, 1 I - + 8 - 2

FireNews.net Editor Jeff Harkey has posted a neat photo of a Charlotte fire muster circa 1990 or 1991? Here's his posting. He asks readers to help identify the apparatus as well as any details.

Jeff Harkey/FireNews.net photo

The antique pumper on the left looks like Kernersville Fire-Rescue's 1923 Brockway/American LaFrance

Curtis Teague - 04/11/12 - 00:07

Curtis you are correct I was there with Jeff Debell, Kevin Griffin, Herb Swaim, and Me. on E-126 a 1986 Duplex Grummen. We rode in the parade and were participating in the static display

Clay Simmons - 04/13/12 - 00:09

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Chicken 'n' Rice

04/10/12 39 W, 1 I - + 7 - 3

Scene from today's Raleigh Fire Department Retiree Lunch, mentioned in a prior posting. Super crowd, super fellowship. Photos from Legeros and Lee forthcoming. Please don't drool on the screen.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Raleigh Fire Museum Open This Saturday, April 14

04/11/12 174 W, 2 I - + 5 - 5

It's fun, it's free, and it's filled with firefighting memorabilia. That's the Raleigh Fire Museum, which opens this Saturday, April 14. The hours are 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The location is 105 Keeter Center Drive, in a classroom trailer at the Keeter Training Center. There's parking, there are restrooms. Admission is free.

Displayed are hundreds of items relating the history of the Raleigh Fire Department, from both its volunteer and career eras. Among the attractions is the 1870 fire alarm bell that once hung at city hall on Fayetteville Street. There's also multimedia at the museum: color film footage from 1950, computer slideshows of old photos, and radio recordings of recent major fires.

Yours Truly will be one of the museum staff members on Saturday. Pay visit and talk some shop! Afterward, consider a drive to northeast Raleigh to see the city's collection of antique fire apparatus. They're house at Fire Station 28 at 3500 Forestville Road. To learn more about the Raleigh Fire Museum, visit www.raleighfirehistory.org.

IMG_3519

2011-06-14-rfd-museum-29-mjl

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Camera Versus Phone

04/12/12 33 W, 2 I - + 7 - 4

Top image is Canon 50D. Bottom image is iPhone 4S. That's a 15.1 megapixels versus 8 megapixels. From Roller Court late yesterday afternoon. Click to enlarge:

Canon 50D DLSR

iPhone 4S

Morrisville Engine 1 and Rescue 1

04/12/12 62 W, 1 I - + 9 - 8

Expertly posed and photographed by Lee Wilson yesterday at Morrisville Station 1. Left is a 1989 Simon-Duplex/KME/Saulsbury heavy rescue, right is a 2006 KME Predator. See more photos. The rescue came from somewhere up north. Open question for Thursday morning. How many other used rigs are serving around here, either locally swapped or obtained elsewhere?

Lee Wilson photo

Clayton's Rescue Truck was obtained from Morrisville. Knightdale's ladder was purchased used, as was Selma's Ladder truck.
Charlie - 04/12/12 - 10:37

Buies Creeks ladder is a former Cary piece
PGtruckie - 04/12/12 - 12:24

Clayton Area Rescue's (now Clayton Area EMS) "crash truck" was bought by Morrisville FD (R2?)
Jay - 04/12/12 - 12:40

Locke Township VFD, Salisbury NC. Truck 62 is ex-Tower 1 from Kent Island VFD, Stevensville, MD and originally served as Tower 26 at The Volunteer Frie Company of Halfway, Hagerstown, MD
George (Email) - 04/12/12 - 12:51

RE: Locke Township Truck. It was used on April 15, 2011 at the Corriher Heights Baptist Church Fire before it was officially placed in service. It can be scene in action, still in Kent Island markings, in this article: http://www.salisburypost.com/News/040511..
George (Email) - 04/12/12 - 12:56

one of Swift Creek's old Tankers is now in service with Apex FD, as is one of Durham Highways old light rescue trucks.

I think Holly Springs had one of Fuquay's old engines for a while.

One of Western Wake's Suburbans was re-allocated to Swift Creek a few years back as well.
shevais - 04/12/12 - 17:55

Old Morrisville Engine 2 1989 Duplex Custom served us in Arapahoe for a few years and is now serving Triangle Fire Department (Pamlico Co.) sporting a Black over Red paint scheme. We currently have a Custom Grumman Fire Cat that served Toms River NJ and a Quint that served Ft.Myers Beach Fire-Rescue.
Chris Murray - 04/12/12 - 19:15

Apex has an old Fairview Tanker and and old Durham Highway Rescue.
Scooter - 04/12/12 - 20:19

In Duplin County old Garner E10 a 1984 Pierce Dash Pumper serves as E3 in Faison, Old Swift Creek Engine 3 a 1988 Pierce Dash Pumper/Tanker serves as Kenansville Engine 3, Old Eastern Wake Engine 5 & 1 a E-One Ford serves as Chinquapin Engine 1 and old Garner Tanker ?? a Pierce Ford serves as Northeast Tanker 2 near Wallace. Vann's Crossroads Fire Department in Sampson County is running an old Falls Engine a E-One Ford Pumper/Tanker as Engine 633, and Newton Grove Fire Department recently bought old Garner E11, a 1994 Pierce Dash Pumper and has it in service as Engine 511.
car3550 - 04/12/12 - 22:21

Chapel Hill E34, http://www.flickr.com/photos/leewilson/7..

2002 HME/4-Guys, originally served in Virginia, delivered in 2011.
Legeros - 04/13/12 - 08:18

Moville is actually getting ready to replace said rescue. It has not been put out for bid yet but it is in next years budget. Not sure if they have chosen a manufacturer yet. Medium rescue size I think. Probably will sell it so it can serve yet another department.
Spanky - 04/13/12 - 18:17

Parkwood Rescue 614, originally served Orange County Rescue, 2006 Spartan Diamond, http://www.flickr.com/photos/leewilson/7..

Durham Tech, former Bethesda engine, 1998 Sutphen
http://www.flickr.com/photos/leewilson/7..
Legeros - 04/14/12 - 08:29

Any one have any idea as to what happened to Garner Rescue 881 the EVI truck. I know the old International ended up at newton grove
curious - 04/14/12 - 14:46

Is that Parkwood rescue the old Garner 881?? Sure looks like it…
Legeros - 04/14/12 - 15:15

Unless they have done away with the rotoray and made a few changes to the front end, I dont believe that this is the same truck though it sure does look very similar.
Curious - 04/14/12 - 17:56

Ah, yes, the Roto-Ray…
Legeros - 04/14/12 - 18:07

It is not the same truck… Newer 881 went to Sampson County as well as the old one…
Chuck - 04/14/12 - 18:54

One of Wake New Hopes International tankers went to Rose Hill recently, repainted white serving at Tanker 4. Not sure which department got the newer 881 in Sampson County, the old 881 is definately at Newton Grove serving at 551.
car3550 - 04/14/12 - 19:44

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

Remember personal info?
○ Yes
◉ No

Holly Springs Station 2 Construction Photo

04/12/12 68 W, 1 I - + 7 - 6

Lee Wilson took this photo on April 7 of Holly Springs Station 2, under construction on Avent Ferry Road. The facility replaces a prior structure that was damaged in last year's tornado. Alas, doesn't look like this one'll have a fire pole. Engine 2 operates at the same location, using a temporary station. See earlier blog post. See more photos from Lee.

Lee Wilson photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Post Comment Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Firefighters Injured in Vehicle Accidents - Davie, Gaston Counties

04/12/12 113 W, 2 I - + 6 - 9

FireNews.net has posted a pair of stories about a pair of fire department vehicle accidents this week. Top photo is a Gastonia Fire Department Battalion Chief's vehicle that collided with another vehicle and then a tree this morning. Battalion Chief Woody Thomas was transported with Gaston Memorial Hospital with non-life threatening injuries. **Read that story**. Bottom photo is a Center Volunteer Fire Department quick response unit that collided with a tractor-trailer truck on Interstate 40 near Mocksville on Monday evening. Two firefighters were transported to Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. **Read that story**.

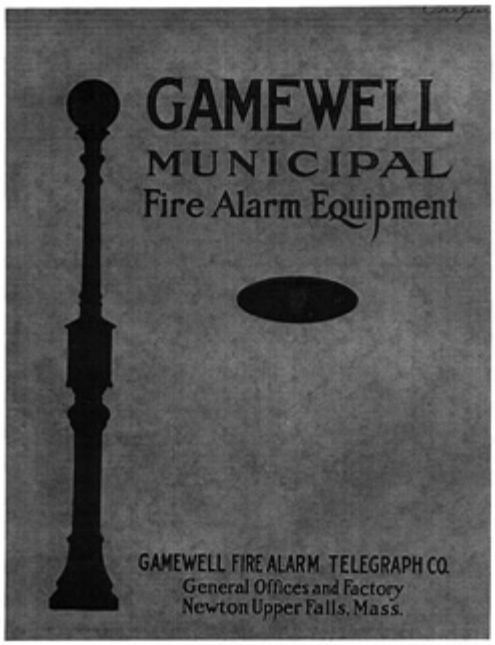
Gastonia Fire Department/FireNews.net photo

MyFox8/FireNews.net photo

Gamewell Bid Document, 1925

04/12/12 471 W, 1 I - + 8 - 4

Here's another vintage bid document from the early 1920s, this one dated November 3, 1925. For purchase of fire alarm equipment from Gamewell Fire Alarm Telegraph Company in Boston, MA. Total $17,318.50. This was both an upgrade and expansion, adding a more powerful switchboard, the first punch registers in the stations, and 35 additional alarm boxes. Like the prior posted specs of Station 4 (and later posting about an American LaFrance pumper), this is a scan of a photocopy, obtained years ago from the City Clerk's office, from their deep records. Fascinating stuff... if you find electric-telegraph alarm systems fascinating, that is! **Read the document**.



Here's a summary of what was ordered:

- Twelve-circuit automatic switchboard, made of slate and mounted on pipe frame.
- Ten-circuit automatic repeater with four (4) independent closed alarm circuits and mounted under a clear glass case, and atop a metal pedestal with a white marble top.
- Thirty-five fire alarm boxes.
- Five recording sets (for the five fire stations) consisting of a punch register, a take-up reel, and a clear glass case with wall mounted shelf and brackets.
- Four battery racks, complete with fuses and insulation.
- Generator, 220 volts.
- Battery cell, 360 of them.
- Pipe frame for the current four-circuit switchboard.

And this fire protection report from 1924 provides plenty of detail on the city's fire alarm system, prior to the ordered equipment and the resulting upgrade. Here's a summary:

- Fire alarm system housed at Station 1 on West Morgan Street, in a pair of fireproof rooms. Repeater and swtichboard in one room, batteries in the other.
- Four-circuit switchboard, installed 1903. Four-circuit automatic repeater, installed 1894, moved to present location 1914.
- System is powered by 106 batteries, charged via a 220-volt generatore. Lightning arresters protect the system, and are provided at each fire station.

- Each fire station has a combination gong and numeric indicator, a Morse telegraph key, and an automatic lighting switch.
- Gongs also provided at the city pumping station, the electric power plant, the water department office, and the residences of the Fire Chief, State Fire Marshal (former Fire Chief Sherwood Brockwell), and the Water Superintendant. The bell atop Station 1 also has a striker that's in service (though only special-used, if memory serves).
- Alarm boxes number 71, one of which is private but accessible to public. All are trigger-pull type. Six boxes are mounted on iron pedestals. Others are secured to poles. Boxes are painted every two years. Five boxes have white lights. Red indicator lights are not used.
- Four circuits connected the fire alarm system. Total length of circuits is approximately 30 miles of wire, all aerial except three wires carried underground for about 60 feet.
- Circuits are tested daily. Boxes are tested monthly.
- Read the entire report, starting on page 9.

Read the Gamewell bid document.

Read about the history of the fire alarm system. (PDF)

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment: / Textile

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Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter, Spring 2012

04/13/12 99 W, 2 I - + 8 - 7

The spring 2012 edition of the *Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter* has been posted to to the web site **raleighfirenews.org**. This issue's includes information about the hydrant blitz, the rescue of an elderly man, haz-mat changes, Fire Station 29, saving old Engine 1, and a centennial history book. Also included is a two page statistical summary of the Raleigh Fire Department's activities in 2012. Edited by department historian Mike Legeros (with his wife Julie as proofreader), the *Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter* is a quarterly publication for personnel, retirees, and citizens. Read the issue, or click to access:

Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter

Hydrant Blitz Begins in April

Firefighters Rescue Elderly Man

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Raleigh Fire Department Volunteer Fire Company Medallions

04/13/12 156 W, 1 I - + 5 - 9

These two medallions are among recent items added to the Raleigh Fire Museum. They're from retired Capt. Dave Godfrey, a veteran fire memorabilia collector. They're also extremely rare. The medallions will be displayed at Saturday's opening. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Location is 105 Keeter Center Drive. See prior posting about Saturday.

These were issued to members of the Capital Hose Company (1887-1912) and the L.A. Mahler Steamer Company (1906-1912). The former was a hand reel company that organized after the installation of the city's first fire hydrants in 1887. They became horse-drawn in 1889. The latter operated the horse-drawn 1905 American LaFrance steam engine, and were named for a former Raleigh fire chief.

Both companies were disbanded after the formation of the career department in December 1912. Read a history of the city's volunteer companies (PDF). Learn more history at **www.raleighfirehistory.org**. Click once or twice to enlarge:

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Four Alarms in Salisbury on Friday

04/14/12 190 W, 1 I - + 5 - 3

FireNews.net has posted a story about yesterday's four-alarm fire at a funeral home at 515 S. Main Street, along with a link to more detailed coverage in the *Salisbury Post*. Here are a few more details, from Carolinas Fire Page and other coverage: One-story structure, 80 by 180 feet. Offensive operations to start, switched to defensive. Four ladders flowing at the height of the fire. Main Street was closed through area, with former Salvation Army parking lot across the street used for staging. Crews continued flowing water through the night. WCNC reporting 17 (!) different fire departments. Google for more news links.

First alarm: Salisbury Quint 1, Quint 2, Quint 3, Quint 4, Engine 1, S1, Squad 1. Second alarm: Cleveland FD, Granite Quarry FD, South Salisbury FD. Third alarm: Franklin FD, Miller's Ferry FD, Locke FD, Ellis FD. Fourth alarm (about an hour into incident): Landis FD, Faith FD. Fourth alarm companies later released for coverage. Also Spencer FD. Special calls for fuel truck and USAR assignment from Charlotte FD, special called to help assess structure. Two bodies in caskets were still in side. That's a 45-minute run for CFD.

WNCN photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Risky Behavior Fuels Capital Boulevard Crashes

04/14/12 82 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

That's the *News & Observer's* headline for this week's story about pedestrian (and motorist) challenges on the five-mile stretch between I-440 and I-540. The story was likely prompted by last Saturday's collision at Brentwood Road that left a pedestrian critically injured. In the last five years, cars have struck and killed two and injured 16 others. Here's the photo that accompanied the print editions. Good shot by Takaaki Iwabu. Read the story.

News & Observer photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Post Comment Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Raleigh Tornado Response Summary, 1988

04/15/12 764 W, 1 I - + 13 - 6

Tomorrow marks the anniversary of the April 16, 2011, tornado that tore through the Capital City. Its path started near Tryon and Lake Wheeler roads, continued northeast through downtown and east Raleigh, and then along a parallel path east of Highway 401. It destroyed 146 structures and heavily damaged 719 others. Four people were killed.

For emergency responders, the severe weather brought one of their busiest days in years. See original blog posting, see photos by Legeros, see special Raleigh Fire Department newsletter edition (PDF). Also search the blog on "tornado" for more related posts.

But that wasn't the city's first experience with a tornado in modern memory. Many remembered the night of November 28, 1988, when a tornado plowed through northwest Raleigh. The 1:00 a.m. storm struck with virtually no warning, killing two and injuring 102 others. Townridge Square Shopping Center on Highway 70, shown below, served as command post and staging area for the hundreds of responders. It was also the site of a flattened KMart store, where an employee was trapped for more than two hours. See closer view.

Gary Knight/CCBI photo

Two days later, on November 30, 1988, the fire department submitted this response summary to the City Manager's office. The Raleigh Fire Department in 1988 protected 201,111 residents and 86.95 square miles with 17 fire stations, 18 engines, 4 aerial trucks, 2 service trucks, and 2 rescue units. They had 355 authorized positions in FY88 (including 335 firefighters) and answered 9,409 fire calls that year. The fire chief was Sherman Pickard.

Tornado Disaster Incident - November 28, 1988

City of Raleigh Units and Personnel Responding

Number of personnel - Approximately 225

- 50 Captain
- 50 Firefighter II
- 125 First Class and Firefighter I

Number of units

- 12 Engines
- 2 Trucks

3 Mini-Pumpers
- 2 Rescue Units
- 1 Foam Unit
- 11 Cars
- 1 Special Risk Unit
- 1 Firefighter on personal vehicle using chain saw to remove trees and limbs from road - 8 gals.

Number of gallons of fuel - 638
Mileage of all equipment - 1,550
Number of overtime hours - Approximately 1443.75

[Raleigh Police Department information was not included in report]

Wake County Fire Units and Personnel:

- Apex Fire Department - 19 Personnel - 2 Brush Trucks - 1 Car - 1 Utility Truck
- Bay Leaf Fire Department - 33 Personnel - 3 Engines - 1 Car
- Cary City - 3 Personnel - 1 Brush Truck
- Fairgrounds Fire Department - 20 Personnel - 1 Engine - 1 Brush Truck - 1 Car *
- Fairview Fire Department - 18 Personnel - 1 Engine - 1 Brush Truck
- Fuquay-Varina Fire Department - 5 Personnel - 2 Engines
- Garner Fire Department - 8 Personnel - 2 Engines
- Knightdale Fire Department - 24 Personnel - 2 Engines - 3 Brush Trucks
- Morrisville Fire Department - 11 Personnel - 1 Engine - 1 Brush Truck
- Six Forks Fire Department - 27 Personnel - 4 Engines - 1 Brush Truck *
- Stony Hill Fire Department - 12 Personnel - 1 Engine - 1 Brush Truck
- Swift Creek Fire Department - 4 Personnel - 1 Brush Truck *
- Wake New Hope Fire Department - 33 Personnel - 2 - Engines - 1 Light Truck *
- Yrac Fire Department - 15 Personnel - 2 Engines

*Indicates volunteer [department] that the city of Raleigh contracts with.

Wake County Fire Marshal's Office:

- 3 Personnel

Wake County EMS/Rescue [Squad] Units:

- Apex - 2 Ambulances
- Cary - 3 Ambulances, Crash Unit, Command Post
- Fuquay - 2 Ambulances
- Garner-2 Ambulances, Crash Truck
- Knightdale - 2 Ambulances, Crash Truck
- Northern Wake - Ambulances
- Six Forks- 2 Ambulances, Crash Truck
- Wendell - 2 Ambulances, Crash Truck
- Zebulon - 1 Ambulance
- Wake County EMS - Various Units

Wake County Sheriff's Department:

- Approximately Forty (40) Cars
- Forty (40) Personnel

[Other law enforcement response not noted. Recall that Wake SO also brought their mobile command post to the scene.]

Durham County Units and Personnel:

Bahama Fire Department - 2 Personnel
- Bethesda Fire Department - 9 Personnel - 1 Engine - 1 Rescue Truck - 1 Ambulance
- Durham County EMS - 4 Personnel - 3 Ambulances
- Lebanon Fire Department - 4 Personnel - 1 Engine
- Parkwood Fire Department - 8 Personnel - 2 Ambulances - 1 Crash Unit
- Redwood Fire Department - 9 Personnel - 1 Engine - 1 Ambulance - 1 Rescue Truck

[Did the fire department response include counties other than Wake and Durham?]

Other Outside EMS/Rescue Squad Units:

- South Granville Rescue Squad - 2 Ambulances
- Clayton Rescue - 2 Ambulances
- Kenly Rescue - 1 Ambulance
- Angier Rescue - 1 Ambulance
- Selma Rescue - 2 Ambulances
- Dunn Rescue - 1 Ambulance
- Erwin Rescue - 1 Ambulance
- Coats Rescue - 1 Ambulance
- Boone Trail Rescue - 1 Ambulance
- Orange County Rescue - 1Ambulance
- Smithfield Rescue - 1 Crash Truck, 1 Ambulance - 1 Car

Gasoline/Diesel Used Other Than Raleigh:

- Redwood Fire Department - 15 gallons gasoline
- New Hope Fire Department - 16.5 gallons gasoline
- South Granville Rescue - 23 gallons gasoline
- Durham [Fire Department?] - 2 gallons gasoline
- Redwood Fire Department - 25 gallons diesel
- Bethesda Fire Department - 31 gallons diesel
- Parkwood Fire Department - 40 gallons diesel

[The Wake County School System supplied a couple fuel trucks at the command post, in addition to the Raleigh Fire Department fuel truck]

Where is Durham Highway on any of the lists?
Just wondering - 04/16/12 - 16:12

Great question, and particularly when examined through the lens of a historian. Based on this single source— this report— can we establish with absolutely certainty that Durham Highway FD did not participate in the tornado response? No. In fact, given the proximity of the fire department's district to the tornado, just the opposite should be thought.

DHFD was certainly affected by the tornado. They had a station on Davis Circle, a stone's throw from the collapsed K-Mart. Their station was either damaged or blown over by the storm. Can't recall specifically which (and if you search the blog, we probably have that tale here). Did that preclude their availability as responders for the incident? Don't know. Readers can perhaps recall and enlighten.

How then to explain their absence in the cited report? The document also does not document participation of the Raleigh Police Department. But it's absolutely certain that city police officers responded to the incident. Thus we should conclude that the document is not 100-percent accurate. Though it's still a valuable document, for sure. Particularly better than having nothing, and playing the "can you remember" guessing game. But we'd want to research more.

And one more reason why you can never believe everything you're told, at least until confirmed or corroborated by a second source.
Legeros - 04/16/12 - 18:15

Listened to a tape of this incident years back with a younger Capt. Dunn calling some shots early in the incident.
Chris - 04/17/12 - 00:01

Johnston county dispatched every fire dept in the county that night and I believe most sent a least one piece if not two pieces of equipment to Raleigh.
CaptMayo - 12/01/13 - 09:54

Yes, there were and are 24 fire department agencies in Johnston County. Most departments still have the plaque on the wall that was given by the Wake County Commissioners for helping with the incident.
Jason Thompson (Email) (Web Site) - 12/01/13 - 10:24

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

Remember personal info?
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No

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Old Garner Rescue 881

04/15/12 57 W, 1 I - + 10 - 4

Asked in this thread about formerly owned apparatus, this 2007 Spartan/EVI heavy rescue formerly served Garner EMS & Rescue Squad. Today's it's Rescue 133 for the Pumpkin Center Fire Department in Lincoln County. And still blue, albeit another shade! There's your next discussion thread. Blue apparatus in North Carolina. Thanks Benjy.

Benjy Grice photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Field of Fire Trucks on I-95 in Georgia

04/15/12 158 W, 1 I - + 9 - 3

More than one person has asked me in recent years about a field of fire trucks on Interstate 95 in Georgia. Google finds others with the same question, and even some photos (such as these on Flickr) and footage (see embed below). A couple dozen pumpers, ladders, and crash trucks are parked on the east side of the road, at the end of Tram Road in South Newport, GA. That's about Mile Marker 63. At the intersection of Tram Road and Highway 17 are a couple commercial-sized structures, from the looks of aerial maps. And more fire truck-looking vehicles. Plus military trucks, which are also roadside along the interstate. Still don't know the story, but we might get a closer view, as Mr. and Mrs. Blogger are heading to Savannah next month. This location is 45 minutes south. Sounds like a worthy diversion. Will report back!

It is a used fire truck sales company that has had about 5 or 6 different names, Firehouse 66 was one, search that to see some more info. I was by there about a month ago and almost everything was gone. Rumor has it, it went for scrap. Still a few trucks and a bunch of military units.

Wade - 04/15/12 - 18:26

Seek and ye shall find, http://firehousebrandsllc.com.. Very interesting. Thanks Wade.

Legeros - 04/15/12 - 18:35

That website looked familiar. Here's a Firegeezer post on that "business": http://firegeezer.com/2011/11/15/morning..

Lt. Lemon (Email) (Web Site) - 04/18/12 - 22:14

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

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Three Houses Burn on Outer Banks Overnight

04/15/12 96 W, 1 I - + 9 - 2

The *Outer Banks Voice* has posted this stunning photo from an early morning fire in Corolla that destroyed two homes and heavily damaged a third. The quick-moving fire was fanned by southwest winds of 17 mph with gusts to 22 mph. The homes were located on Hicks Bay Lane and Cottage Cove Road. Several vehicles were also destroyed. The fire was extinguished shortly before sunrise. WTVD has also posted some video footage and a couple photos. Maybe our readers to the northeast will add details.

The Outer Banks Voice photo

First due truck reported heavy fire conditions in one house, exterior burning on a second, and two vehicles involved. Fire ultimately destroyed three vacation homes (two were occupied at time), damaged a fourth, and destroyed at least seven vehicles. Water supply was an issue because of system design and fire load (first home was 6800 sqft). Apparatus/manpower responded from Corolla, Carova Beach, Duck, Southern Shores, Kitty Hawk, Nags Head, Manns Harbor, Lower Currituck, and Crawford departments.
Smokey - 04/16/12 - 08:50

But…but…sprinklers would mean more cost. If I delete the addition of sprinklers I can add another 500 sq.ft. to the planned 2500 sq.ft. addition to my house. (from my own sister when I suggested the addition of sprinklers to her house)
Rescue Ranger - 04/16/12 - 20:35

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

Remember personal info?
○ Yes
◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Manchester Fire Department - True Blue

04/16/12 146 W, 1 I - + 10 - 3

Speaking of blue trucks (see prior post about Pumpkin Center FD, or think of Chapel Hill FD or Soul City FD or...), FireNews.net Editor Jeff Harkey posted this post of a light blue E-One pumper that served the Manchester Fire Department in Cumberland County. **See a second photo and read some details** on the truck's history.

Manchester FD operated from 1968 to 1998. It began as Lakeview FD, which organized in 1963 and was incorporated in 1964. It was renamed in 1968. The department disbanded after the board voted in October 1998, to let the county assume fire protection of the district.

Readers perhaps can provide the back story, which probably involves annexation and shrinking territory. (A fate that has befallen a number of Fayetteville-area fire departments.) Manchester FD's assets were absorbed by Spring Lake FD. Source: Legeros database.

Jeff Harkey/FireNews.net photo

Interesting another, or the first, dept which had light blue. I didn't know that before now. Thnx Mike! Interesting for me, as I'm not necessarily "committed" to red fire trucks, although I find myself kind of partial to ALF Red. I find the various different colors kind of neat, and have seen lots of other color combinations which I really liked. And I do like the Chapel Hill rendition, as well as the Greenville ECU paint scheme. From time to time, I've actually thought about doing a book on "alternate" fire trucks colors, thinking it might make interesting reading.
Tim B - 04/16/12 - 09:09

Must be more Wolfpack fans out there I suppose…
Bob P. - 04/16/12 - 16:43

Some of Manchester FD area was annexed into Spring Lake. If memory serves me correct, due to falling numbers of members and budget issues was also issues. Those members of MFD, went to other departments such as Spring Lake, Westarea and parts of Harnett County. Spring Lake FD used MFD station as a storage site with apparatus for some time. Not sure what happend after that when I left Cumberland County
Swiman - 04/17/12 - 10:33

Apparatus, Teams Wanted for Raleigh Fire Department Centennial Celebration

04/16/12 145 W, 1 I - + 12 - 8

The Raleigh Fire Department is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. An celebration is scheduled for Saturday, June 16, in downtown Raleigh. The all-day event is open to the public. Among the planned events are a fire truck parade down Fayetteville Street, an apparatus muster featuring antiques pumping, and a series of firefighter challenge events. Plus a kid's zone, a shuttle bus to the fire museum, and even birthday cake while it lasts.

Participation is sought from fire departments throughout North Carolina. Do you have an antique that you'd like to bring, both for the parade and the muster? Do you have a team of firefighters interested in competing in the challenge events? Registration is required. Forms and information, as well as full event information, are available at **www.RFD100.com**.

Hope to see you there!

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Oldest Raleigh Fireman Passes, 1930

04/16/12 480 W - + 11 - 6

From the March 5, 1930, edition of the *News & Observer* comes this obituary for Eugene A. Lasater, one of the original members of Raleigh's career fire department. He was also a member of the volunteer Hook & Ladder Company. His name was mentioned at the recent Retiree Day, as he's the great step-grandfather on her mother's side of retired Captain Ann Lynn. The obit:

> OLDEST RALEIGH FIREMAN PASSES
>
> E. A. Lasater, Over 30 Years in Service, Dies Suddenly at Home Here
>
> E. A. Lasater, 67 year old veteran of the Raleigh Fire Department, died suddenly early yesterday morning at his home at 404 West Morgan Street. Death was unexpected, since Mr. Lasater had been active about Fire Station No. One where he was still employed on Monday.
>
> Mr. Lasater had been a member of the Raleigh fire department for more than 30 years. He was on the force back in the old days when well-trained horses ran swiftly down the streets with smoking fire engines. He was the oldest fireman on the Raleigh fire force, both in point of years and service.
>
> Broke World Record.
>
> According to some of the older residents of Raleigh, Mr. Lasaster used to excel at fireman's tournaments. He broke one of the world's records in carrying the ladder300 yards and raising it with 11 men on it in 41 seconds. He was employed regularly back in the days when the fire department was largely a volunteer proposition. He was one of the few who drew any pay for services at that time.
>
> Mr. Lasater was born in Chatham county, but lived in Raleigh for the major portion of his life. He is survived by his widow and the following children: E. L. Lasaster, of Lakeworth, Fla.; Gradothe E. , Frank and Jack Lasater all of Raleigh; Miss Lillie Lasate, of Jersey City, N.J.; Mrs. Dosay Clement, of Greensboro; and Mrs. Otis Christie, of Fayetteville.
>
> He is also survived by two step children, James Holleman and Mrs. A. T. Parnell, both of Raleigh and by the following brothers and sisters: Thomas Lasater, of Durham; John Lasater, of Pittsboro; Mrs. E. L. Singleton, of Durham and Mrs. Cornie Thomas, of Wilmington.
>
> Funeral Today
>
> Funeral services will be held at 4:30 o'clock this afternoon at the Tabernacle Baptist Church, where Mr. Lasater was a member for many years. Burial will follow in Oakwood cemetery. Rev. E. Gibson Davis, pastor of the church, will conduct the ceremonies.
>
> The following will service as pallbearers, active, Lieut. R. L. Matthews, L. E. Winters, N. L. Crabtree, D. C. Reynolds, R. L. Randolph, E. T. Warren. Honorary, Chief W. E. Holland, Assistant Chief E. B. Smith, H. L. Martin, Capt. W. L. Choplin, Capt. A. B. Lloyd, Lieut. E. B. Buffalo, J. G. Wilkins, H. R. Winston, W. R. Butts, V. G. Mims, J. M. Burnette, J. T. White, L. H. Glenn, and J. R. Marshall.

Orange Rural Fire Department Opens Station 3

04/17/12 109 W, 1 I - + 6 - 6

On Saturday, April 14, Orange Rural Fire Department in Orange County celebrated the grand opening of Station 3 at 2510 Walker Road. That's located north of Hillsborough, off Highway 57. See their Facebook page for a few photos from that day. Below is a photo from Lee Wilson. See a couple more photos.

Lee WIlson photo

We've also recently poked around the past of ORFD as well as the Hillsborough FD, an entity that today appears to exist only as a name on the side of a new town-bought ladder truck. See this posting and this posting. One of these days we'll finish that research...

Looking at the map, this looks pretty close to their station 2.
Andrew - 04/17/12 - 08:27

It's closer to station 2 than I would have thought, but I don't know if either station 2 or 3 is staffed full time or manned by volunteers?
Paul - 04/18/12 - 10:50

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

Woods and Brush and Hay Fires

04/17/12 226 W, 2 I - + 7 - 9

FireNews.net posted photos and details about yesterday's 50-acre brush fire along the 17th Street Extension in **Wilmington**. Several residential streets were evacuated, as well as the Cameron Art Museum. The state forestry service brought aircraft to the scene. The Wilmington Fire Department had 65 firefighters on scene, along with county firefighters. Certainly at least a dozen fire companies. Maybe readers will share a run card. See more photos from the *Star-News*. Looks like an EMS command post or rehab unit in one of the shots...

Mike Spencer/Star-News photo

WTVD posted aerial photos of yesterday's 30-acre woods fire near Bahama in **Durham County**. The state forest service assisted with a helicopter along with ground equipment. Three different sites were burned, but no structures were involved. The fire is expected to smolder for a few days. See also this WRAL story.

Also burning yesterday were 108 bales of hay on a trailer that ignited on Interstate 40 at mile marker 308 near **Garner**. The full-involved trailer also ignited a bit of brush. Crews were on scene for two hours. Traffic was delayed in a major way, due to full closure of all eastbound lanes. Garner Fire Department responded, along with Cleveland Fire Department from Johnston County. As memory serves of the radio traffic, that is. See: WRAL, WTVD (above).

This Morning's Fire on Jones Street

04/18/12 218 W, 2 I - + 7 - 5

News reports are slim so far about this morning's fire on East Jones Street that heavily damaged a pre-Civil War home. WRAL has posted this news brief. The 4,810 square-foot structure at 516 E. Jones Street was built in 1854 (or 1851). Two stories with a brick exterior.

From the tax photo (below) and Bing Maps Bird's Eye views, notable features included four chimneys. Looks like a former boarding house, or perhaps current office space. (Google lists a couple businesses at the address.) We'll probably see a profile of the occupants and the building before long.

Engine 3 arrived with heavy fire showing through the roof in the rear. Recalling radio traffic, interior operations segued to deployment of a portable monitor in the rear. Ladder 4 was subsequently deployed in the front, onto the roof and into the attic space. Exposure protection on the delta side. Additional engine special called to catch a second hydrant, for additional water.

Dispatched 1:47 a.m. Controlled 4:07 a.m. No injuries. Fifty-percent of the building damaged. Cause determined as accidental due to unspecified electrical failure. Units on scene included E3, E1, E13, E7, E17 (special called, was likely covering at Station 1), L4, R2, B2, A1, C10, C20, C40, EMS _, EMS _, EMS _, (on the ball there, aren't we?) D1, T1.

WRAL photo

This residence was also the business office of the Raleigh Downtowner magazine, http://www.raleighdowntowner.com/..

They have posted interior and exterior aftermath photos on their Facebook page, http://www.facebook.com/raleighdowntowne..

They are also looking to borrow a few items, as they lost all their computers, cameras, files, equipment, as such. See their note on the above FB page. They are working to finish their current issue on borrowed equipment.

Legeros - 04/18/12 - 22:12

Such a loss! Most importantly, thank goodness no one was hurt. That is an irreplaceable house in Raleigh's treasure of a neighborhood, Historic Oakwood. I'm saddened to hear that the house is a total loss…a piece of history gone.

Pam Katchuk (Web Site) - 04/20/12 - 15:59

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

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

You Have The Right To Remain Silent

04/18/12 276 W - + 9 - 4

And the right to speak your mind, at least with regard to constitutionally protected speech. That issue is being discussed by Statter911 readers in a posting yesterday about a Florida firefighter who is drawing attention for comments posted on Facebook. At the highest level, it begs a great question: just 'cause you *can* do something, *should* you do that thing? And are you prepared for the reality of the consequences, should they occur? (Observe my word "reality.") Here's my comment on the comments, posted late yesterday. Mind you, Mr. Blogger is neither a constitutional scholar nor plays one on television. I have however yelled "theater!" at a crowded fire scene before...

> *Legeros says:*
>
> *Any conclusions to draw, from the first day's discussion? I keep thinking about school teachers, and the repeated stories that I hear about them getting disciplined for, say, being seen or photographed drinking a beer away from work.*
>
> *There are probably "teacher's personal codes of conduct" out there that we would shake our heads about. But let's apply that line of thinking to emergency services.*
>
> *Are there personal behaviors that are (a.) perfectly legal but (b.) entirely problematic if announced or advertised to the world? I think we know the answer, and its compounded by the digital age.*
>
> *Much like the reports from Key West the other week, and all the school kids behaving better during spring break. Why? Because they all feared Facebook photos and other postings would reveal their indulgent activities.*
>
> *There are more eyes for the watching than ever before.*
>
> *April 17, 2012*

More and more agencies and corporations are adopting social networking policies – and many are also conducting background checks via social networks. Bottom line is once you post it – the content is there FOREVER so you better be prepared to stand by (or don't do it).
Joe Brady (Email) (Web Site) - 04/18/12 - 09:12

It is amazing the change during my career at the speed at which photos (and other stuff) gets in the media. You can have your photo taken and seconds later it is readily available worldwide. The way that information (good and bad) can travel to the masses is amazing, too.

As to "personal behavior issues", I think that the public probably expects us (as emergency providers) to behave in similar ways that they expect our teachers to. Maybe not to the extreme of not being seen with an adult beverage in your hand, since, thanks to TV, it seems to be an acceptable behavior to have a drink or two (or three of four) for firefighters, paramedics, and police officers, but I do believe that they hold us to a higher standard. At the same time, I think we are more prone to being allowed 'second' (and third) chances more so than teachers.

I think that the digital age and the advent of social media has outpaced our ability, in some sorts, to set reasonable policies and expectations. The advent of My Space, and then Facebook, accelerated the change faster than most folks could fathom.

The problem is, sometimes, in the haste of action in the event of perceived bad behavior, knee jerk rules are set, and the real potential of this new 'social media' is lost upon the powers that be. Its use is restricted, or in some cases, banned. Good idea? I don't know, but I don't think so.

Sure, there are considerations such as privacy, HIPAA, good tastes, and just plain old common sense, but I don't think they are enough to throw the baby out with the bath water.

And finally, you are a master of what you don't put out there, and slave to what you do. And I am certainly guilty of that, being a regular poster here, a blogger myself, and a regular presence on Facebook. And I am perfectly willing to stand by anything I say, type, or blog about, knowing that there may be consequences. Mostly from the misinformed or insecure.

At the end of the day, I can look at the person in the mirror and be OK with him. And that, in my final words on this post, is all that really matters to me.

DJ - 04/19/12 - 12:08

Thanks for adding your thoughts DJ. One interesting aspect of this involves requests for service. I'll wager that just about any social media scandal will NOT affect someone's dialing 911, when they have a fire, or a heart attack, or…

Could there be a collective affect? If an agency received bad press after bad press, might their customers loose confidence in their ability to help? Maybe. But in high-panic mode, I think we're probably hard-wired to dial 911.

Thus, reputation management is for affecting a different set of outcomes. One's personal employment, for example. There's also public support, which is invariably tied to funding and approval for things asked for.

Legeros - 04/21/12 - 11:51

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- No

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Wilmington Fire Department Plans Station Consolidations

04/18/12 215 W - + 5 - 7

FireNews.net is reporting on a story from WECT about the Wilmington Fire Department's plans for consolidating four fire stations. Fire Chief Buddy Martinette wants to shutter four stations that need renovations, and build two new fire stations. The new stations will accommodate larger trucks and thus improve those coverage areas. The plan would save the city about $6 million and without affecting the jobs of any firefighters. The particulars of the plan aren't reported. We'll see if the *Star-News* has news tomorrow.

If the idea of "four for two" sounds familiar to Raleigh readers, let's turn our time machine to February 1993. That's when the Raleigh City Council began a consideration of a station consolidation plan. Fire Chief Sherman Pickard proposed closing four stations in and around downtown: Stations 1, 3, 5, and 6. Two new stations would be built near Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Haywood Street, and near Wade Avenue and St. Mary's Street. The plan also proposed cutting 24 firefighter positions, and saving up to $800,000 in annual salaries. Citizens and other groups protested and the plan was eventually dropped.

Question for readers. What are some of your stories of station consolidations from around North Carolina, either proposed or implemented? Seems like there have been a few, here and there.

As a little kid in '93 I remember my family wrapping a large red bow around a tree in our front yard as a sign of solidarity with RFD and to symbolize our opposition to the consolidation plan. I can't imagine it being a better idea for Wilmington than it was for Raleigh.
Eric - 04/19/12 - 20:30

Wilmington station map, http://www.wilmingtonnc.gov/fire_departm..

Don't see obvious overlaps, but…
Legeros - 04/21/12 - 15:29

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American LaFrance Bid Document, 1925

04/18/12 302 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

For our third and final vintage bid document, this one's dated January (?) 30, 1925. One Type #75 triple pumper chemical engine and hose motor car for the Raleigh Fire Department. To be built and shipped in about 60 working days after receiving and executing contract. Price $12,500, subject to delivery, test, acceptance, and regular periodic inspection.

The serial number was #5097. The manufacturing date was April 14, 1925. It was one of four Type 75 pumpers delivered in 1922, 1925, and 1926 (two). Like the prior posting about Station 4 and the Gamewell alarm system, this is a scan of a photocopy, obtained years ago from the City Clerk's office. **Read this document**.

Some of the specs:

- Triple combination pumping, chemical, and hose car.
- 750 GPM, rotary gear pump
- 40 gallon Champion chemical tank
- 200 feel of 3/4-inch chemical hose on a reel
- Hosebed capacity for 1,200 feet of 2 1/2-inch hose
- Pneumatic tires
- Locomotive bell and "penetrating siren horn"

Among supplied equipment:

- Two lengths of suction hose
- One metal suction strainer
- Double-swivel hydrant connections, for 2 1/2" inch and "large" sizes
- Suction hose coupling wrench
- 2 1/2-inch spanner wrench
- One 28-foot extension ladder
- One 14-foot roof ladder with folding hoses
- One 11-foot ladder
- Natural finish ladders with ends painted black
- One 8-foot pike pole, with natural finish and black ends

- Two 2 1/2-gallon Boyd plunger-type extinguishers with shut-off.'
- Two Alfco Little Giant play pipes with LaFrance shut-off nozzles, with 1 1/8-inch, 1 1/4-inch, and 1-inch tips
- One Boston Special play pipe with LaFrance shut-off nozzle, with 1 1/8-inch and 1 1/4-inch tips
- One revolving hose nozzle
- One set of mounted, reverse couplings
- Four cotton hose straps
- One Peerless hose clamp
- Four hydrant wrenches
- Eight pocket spanners
- Tool box with standard S.A.E and special wrenches and tools.
- Two lanterns.
- One heavy pick axe.
- One steel crowbar, mounted on running board.

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Curious Fire Photo From Rocky Mount

04/19/12 87 W, 1 I - + 10 - 4

For your morning reading, here's a curious fire photo from the *Rocky Mount Telegram*, what looks like an HDR image by Bob Bartosz, after a small fire Monday night at a home improvement store. There's been a debate about HDR and its use in photojournalism. Here's one report, from Digital Photography Review. What do you think about HDR or heavier digital processing in general? Anyway, read the story and see a larger version, plus a second shot.

Bob Bartosz photo

I like the pictures. Also, Bob Bartosz is an outstanding asset to our area, just google the guys name to see all the work he did while living in Camden, NJ. He is at just about every major event in our and the morning after he's at every fire department that responded dropping off a disc full of pictures. We are very fortunate to have him in our area as Raleigh/Wake is fortunate to have you.
captainchaos - 04/19/12 - 08:51

Bob is indeed the man. And he has shot some serious fire in his lifetime!
Legeros - 04/19/12 - 08:56

Born and bred in Rocky Mount, and a stint in both Fire and EMS and even though I had the good sense to flee the crime riddled area over 40yrs. Ago I read the telegram daily. Bob Bartoz does a great job but I am off course partial to Mike and Lee.I ain,t got no ideas what HDR photography is but in the telegram photo section on page 6 there is a photo tribute To RMFD by Bob. These photos are done somehow to make them near bout cartoonish and the whole set of photos is very different and very interesting. Whatever the process is may not be that suitable for fire scene photos, but they sure look cool in this tribute. Mike if you get chance to look at them maybe you can Explain what type of photography they are.
Galax,VA - 04/20/12 - 21:36

Name: (real name preferred)
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Eno Brush Truck

04/20/12 112 W, 1 I - + 15 - 7

Here's a sharp-looking remount, Eno Fire Department Brush 355. The body of their old brush truck was remounted on a 2011 Dodge chassis. Lee Wilson photographed same during this week's Orange County roamings. See more photos. And did you know EFD operates a second station? It opened in 2009 and is located on St. Mary's Road.

Also, Carrboro Station 2 is in operation. It opened in September 2010. Here are a couple pics from Lee via Firenews.net. (He also spent some time in Chapel Hill, photographing their famous blue rigs. Good shots. Go State.)

Who else has opened new stations lately? Or is preparing to open a new station?

Lee Wilson photo

That's an interesting looking rig. You don't see too many Rams being used.

Cary has broken ground on Firehouse 8, and the land has either been purchased or is being purchased for the new Firehouse 2 to be located at 601 E. Chatham St.

shevais - 04/20/12 - 09:37

I'm digging the front bumper! Reminds me quite a bit of Brush 69 from Wake Forest. Oh how I miss that truck.

Drives a Ladder - 04/21/12 - 00:50

Station 2 relocation to Chatham Street! Great for train watching **and** lunch at the Circus…

Legeros - 04/21/12 - 10:26

Wish Raleigh had these… Any new apparatus in the near future?

Will - 04/21/12 - 22:53

At last check, everything is on hold for now.

Raleigh doesn't use the brush trucks much, and to me, for as much as we use them, what we have works fine. The one at 16's has insanely low mileage, and if it gets scratched up, no biggie. For a brush truck, you're designing something that you know will be scratched up and take

a beating. Throw a skid in the back of a red or white heavy duty pick-up (lights and siren too) and let it ride.

Love the bumper on the above though!
Silver - 04/21/12 - 23:08

if Raleigh gets funding for a new ladder truck, hopefully it is the personnel for the truck, although another apparatus might be nice too.
charlie - 04/25/12 - 17:40

I agree Charlie….funds for a Ladder COMPANY and a Ladder TRUCK are two different things. It would be great to see Ladder 9 added to the city, let's keep our fingers crossed.
Silver - 04/25/12 - 23:07

The city's reserve fleet of ladders is presently:

1999 American LaFrance / LTI Aerial Platform, 93' with pump
1988 Pierce Arrow platform, 85'
1995 Simon Duplex/LTI aerial platform, 100' with pump

I still remember the first time that I saw the 1995 truck, which is old Truck 16. That was the first ladder truck in a few years, and the first platform ladder. I almost drove off the road, doing double-takes as I passed the station on Lead Mine Road. Maybe that's why I bought a house a block from the place!
Legeros - 04/26/12 - 07:39

@Jon I can imagine that Ladders 1 and 2 might be involved if it's apparatus only; I could be wrong though
Will (Email) - 04/26/12 - 17:11

L1 does a little something but really not much of anything. I imagine if a replacement ladder were ordered it would be slated for L2 due to the call volume and the amount of fire that truck has. Current L2 would make a great replacement for L1.
Rescue Ranger - 04/26/12 - 21:49

I wonder the cost of a new tiller; no pump, no tank. NOT trying to start the pump/tank versus no pump/tank debate, just wondering the cost. I know it is attractive in the long term, because as long as the ladder passes annual testing you can still use it, only replacing the tractor as needed.

I agree RR, L-2 is a workhorse and should get a new rig. The only problem I see is that it is pretty tight with any tandem axle truck in and out of 4's. I'm sure the can make it work though….
Silver - 04/27/12 - 09:28

RR, not to mention that E4's current truck is L2's former stablemate
Will - 04/27/12 - 13:50

You are correct, Bob. We have a host of smaller-sized stations that won't accommodate modern ladder trucks. Plus a couple have other restrictions. Station 8 has a weight limit, due to the basement space. Station 6 has a turning radius restriction, I think.

(There's a great story that the retirees tell of the 1950 Mack, old Engine 6. Around 1952, it had an accident, and the front axle was inadequately repaired. So the thing couldn't make the right turn. They'd have to stop, back up a hair, and turn more. Finally one of the firefighters figured out the problem, and fixed it themselves (or helped the mechanic fix same.)

(When the engine was out of service for the aforementioned accident, one of the old 1920s LaFrance pumpers served as reserved. That was the truck that wrecked in 1952, injuring Driver Vernon Smith. Brake cable broke, I think. He died from his injuries four years later, and was the first duty death for the Raleigh Fire Department. But I digress as usual…)

Most of our smaller stations are the single-story, two-bay variety that we've seen all through the region. Greensboro, Durham, Burlington, etc. Big bay block space, and some living quarters on one or both sides.
Legeros - 04/28/12 - 08:31

nothing says that L1 has to remain at station 4. they could put it at another station in its first due area. or customize a new ladder truck to fit in

station 4, perhaps something like a single aixle suthphen ladder like Durham uses at stations 7 or 16.
charlie - 04/28/12 - 10:42

Moving L1 to another firehouse in its' current first due would then re-adjust all of the other Ladder's first due areas as well. There comes a time when you just have to add Ladder Companies (which is trying to be done but the economy is hurting the chances) instead of constant re-aligning.

The reason I brought up a tiller sans pump and tank is because they are noticeably shorter, and the tiller-man gives you the tight steering ability.
Silver - 04/28/12 - 13:26

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Cary Fire Station 8 Under Construction

04/21/12 156 W, 2 I - + 8 - 5

The ground has been broken for Cary Fire Station 8 at 408 Mills Park Drive. The two-story station will have three apparatus bays, measure 14,410 square-feet, and include a 1,160 square-foot satellite police station. The station will house an engine company, but is built to include a ladder company and Battalion Chief in the future. It's also the town's first "green build" building. (This blog is also environmently friendly, by the way. It's built from 100-percent recycled thoughts!)

The cost of the project is $5.9 million. The designer is ADW Architects of Charlotte. Read more about the project. Here's a reader photo of the construction site. Thanks Jeff. And maybe we can dig up a map showing all Cary fire station locations, current and planned. e.g., new Station 2 at 601 E. Chatham Street, Station 9 in O'Kelly Chapel Road Area, Station 10 in West Lake/Middle Creek area.

Hey Cary guys, are they still planning the big area of development to be the Cary Park and 55/540 corridor? Obviously growth has slowed, but is it still proposed later down the road?

Silver - 04/21/12 - 16:41

Hey Jeff, yes, and they are working with Chatham County now to extend the Land Use plan almost all the way to the lake. From what I

understand there are a number of things still being planned for that area west of 55, and I'm sure that will speed up once 540 is completed through there.
shevais - 04/22/12 - 09:17

Any news on additional staffing or when the hiring process may be?
Charlie H - 04/24/12 - 11:50

CFD will be hiring staffing for an Engine Company for this house. That will mean 15 positions, plus any additional vacancies. As for time frame I would say to look for something towards the end of the year. I would submit an interest card on the Cary Human Resources site if you are interested.
shevais - 04/24/12 - 17:35

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Charlotte Reacquires Hand Engine

04/21/12 87 W - + 7 - 6

Neat videos out of Charlotte, where the fire department has reacquired an 1866 Jeffers hand engine (both hand-pulled and hand-powered) that originally served the Neptune Fire Company. It later served Newbury, MA, and is thus lettered for same.

By my research, at least 44 hand engines have been used in North Carolina. See the database, which is likely incomplete. Salem's two engines survive. Isn't Smithfield's hand engine still around as well? Raleigh had five engines through its history. Their dispositions remain unknown.

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- Yes
- No

Here Come The Speed Bumps!

04/22/12 154 W - + 11 - 6

This week's *Midtown Raleigh News* reports on new traffic-calming measures approved for the Capital City. Eight neighborhood streets are getting humps and bumps and something called speed cables. And you know you're good if you already know each street's first-due engine company! Here's the list:

- Shelley Road between North Hills Drive and Six Forks Road. Seven speed humps.
- Rose Lane between Maplewood Road and Poole Road. Nine humps.
- Baugh Street between Starmount Drive and Old Buffaloe Road. Seven humps.
- Wimbleton Drive between the two sections of Shelley Road. Three speed cables, which is a wider version of a speed hump.
- Northbrook Drive between North Hills Drive and Pamlico Drive. Three humps and one raised crosswalk.
- Glascock Street between Wake Forest Road and Norris Street. Four humps.
- Merrie Road between Avent Ferry Road and Merwin Road. Six humps.
- East Rowan Street between Six Forks Road and Lakemont Drive. Five humps.

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Marcus - 04/23/12 - 00:43

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UPDATED: New Old Photos From The Mangel Fire, July 1981

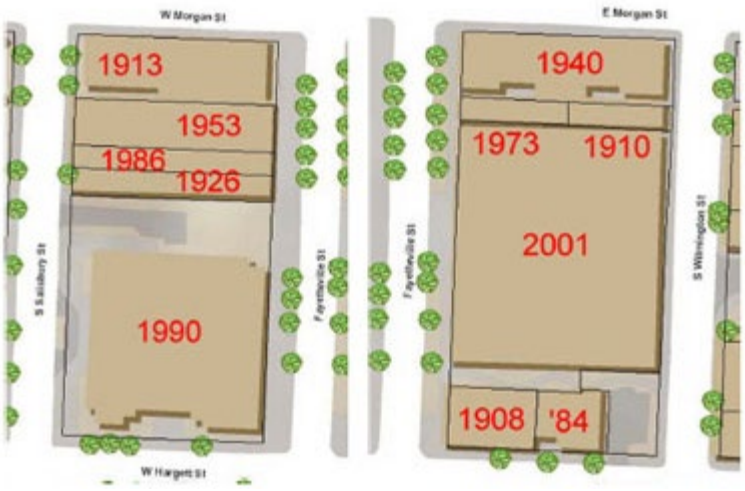
04/23/12 140 W, 5 I - + 8 - 11

The Raleigh Fire Museum has posted two sets of photos from the Mangel's Building fire on Fayetteville Street Mall on July 7, 1981. The photos are from veteran hobby photog Robert L. Ott Sr. and retired CCBI photographer Gary Knight. Their photos, other photos, and other information (including a run card) are linked from this new **historical incident summary page**.

1981-07-07-mangel-ott-12	1981-07-07-mangel-ott-18-close
1981-07-07-mangel-knight-02	1981-07-07-mangel-knight-05-close

Robert Ott (top) and Gary Knight (bottom) photos

The Mangel's Building was built between 1890 and 1900. How many really old buildings remain on Fayetteville Street? Based on tax records, here's a **document with diagrams and ages** (PDF). (That document was created last year. Please advise corrections!) Looks like a number of structures dating to the 1900s, though balanced with numerous more modern buildings.



Bill, thanks for this fantastic contribution to RFD's history!
A.C. Rich - 04/22/12 - 21:06

For your reading (and contextual pleasure), here are the first couple pages of a monograph-in-progress, about the events that day. It'll get finished one of these years:

Memories of the Mangel Building

Setting the Stage

Let's travel back in time to the early Eighties, to the second year of that decade. The summer of 1981. Ronald Reagan is President, and has survived an assassination attempt. Pope John Paul II is also recovering from being shot. The Oakland Raiders are the year's Super Bowl champs. Major League Baseball has gone on strike. The Centers for Disease Control have identified the first recognized cases of an acquired immunity deficiency disease.

The City of Raleigh is less than half its present size at 56.63 square miles. The population is 149,771, making Raleigh the third largest city in the state. G. Smeades York is serving his second term as Mayor. The Fayetteville Street pedestrian mall has been completed. The Raleigh Civic Center is four years old. The merged Raleigh and Wake County school system is five years old.

The Raleigh Fire Department has 15 fire stations, with 16 engine companies, three aerial ladders, three service ladders, two rescue units, and three District Chiefs. They'll answer 5,214 calls in 1981. This is the second year of the city-wide first responder program. They have 325 authorized positions, and a budget of 45.6 million. The Fire Chief is Rufus Keith. The Assistant Chiefs are C. T. May and Norman Walker.

Smoke Investigation

On Tuesday July 7, 1981, about 8:45 a.m., the attendant in a parking lot on South Salisbury Street noticed smoke coming from a window on the second floor of the Mangel Building. He went inside into building, into the Corkscrew Restaurant, and informed the owner of what he saw. The owner called the fire department. At 8:50 a.m., Engine 1, Engine 3, and Truck 1 were dispatched to a smoke investigation.

The three-story, brick and wood Mangel Building was located at 124 Fayetteville Street Mall, in the middle of the block bound by Morgan, Salisbury, and Hargett streets. It faced both Fayetteville and Salisbury streets, and was divided into two main businesses and ten smaller ones.

It adjoined a second building on the north side and a small parking lot on the south side. Additional buildings were located on the block, south of the parking lot. The Mangel Building was built between 1890 and 1900, had 24,940 square-feet, and lacked a sprinkler system.

The first fire apparatus arrived at 8:54 a.m. and saw nothing but thick black smoke. Within minutes, a second alarm was dispatched. Engine 2, Engine 5, Truck 5, Truck 7, and Rescue 12 were sent at 9:04 a.m. They were dispatched to 100 South Salisbury Street, likely a staging location. Second-alarm companies began arriving by 9:13 a.m.

The third alarm was dispatched at 10:44 a.m., with Engine 13, Engine 11, Engine 9, Engine 6, and Truck 16. Additional units, perhaps a fourth alarm, added Engine 10, Engine 7, Engine 8, and Engine 3. They were dispatched to Fayetteville and Morgan streets, likely a staging location.

Additional units engine and truck companies were requested through the day and evening, at 2:33 p.m. (Truck 1, Engine 15 to Wilmington and Hargett streets), 5:18 p.m. (Engine 7, Engine 14), 8:38 p.m. (Engine 14, Engine 9), and 12:43 am. (Engine 10).

Fighting the Fire

Crews had difficulty controlling the fire, as the building was heavily partitioned. "It was like fighting five separate fires at once" said District Chief L. V. Chopin. The structure had numerous false walls and false ceilings added as the result of renovation work over the years. "You name it, they had done it in there," said Fire Chief Rufus Keith. "We couldn't find [the fire]. We never really found [it]."

The intensity grew as each hour passed. The owner of the Bookmark, another store on the block, was planning to open at 10:00 a.m. But, he

recalled, the building next door was blazing. "But it seemed to get worse and worse," he recalled. "The more firemen that came, the worse the fire got." By 11:00 a.m., the store owner was forced to abandon his store, and taking memorabilia and some books with him.
Black smoke covered the Fayetteville Street Mall like a blanket, and shoppers found fresh air inside stores.

Three pieces of aerial apparatus were utilized, directing streams onto the roof and into the second floor. On Salisbury Street, two aerials operated: Truck 1 with a 1977 Mack/Baker 85-foot aerial platform, and Truck 16 with a 1961 American LaFrance 100-foot aerial ladder. On the Fayetteville Street Mall, truck 5 was using a 1979 Mack/1958 American LaFrance 100-foot aerial ladder.

See also this diagram of the building: http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..
Legeros - 04/22/12 - 22:18

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Dangerous Driving Study

04/22/12 95 W - + 7 - 8

Did you catch this this week, about an NHTSA study showing gender differences in accidental acceleration in automobile accidents? And studying North Carolina crashes, no less? This Car Connection story has a howler of an opening paragraph:

> *Gentlemen: on a scale of one to ten, how much do you value your relationship with your wife? Girlfriend? Mother? Sister? Female co-workers? If you answered more than, say, a five, you might want to skip this article entirely, because it could get you into a lot of trouble.*

Continue reading at your own peril...

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Detroit Fire Department Demolition Squad

04/22/12 220 W, 1 I - + 11 - 5

As cited in this Statter911 story, the Detroit Fire Commissioner has some innovative ideas for dealing with cuts to his coming budget. He's focused his attention on vacant structures, which is the major fire problem in motor city.

Idea #1: Allow vacant homes that are 50% involved or greater on arrival to burn to the ground, as long as no lives (and presumably exposures) are jeopardized.

Idea #2: Asking the U.S. Navy's Seabees to demolish 10,000 vacant or dilapidated homes. Can you get your head around that one? Ten thousand vacant homes.

Idea #3: Creating a DFD demolition unit, with heavy equipment to raze the remnants of newly burned buildings. Much in the style of the heavy equipments used by LAFD, where the Commissioner last worked.

By way of historical perspective, demolition was a proven technique for controlling fires in the 19th Century (and probably earlier). Hooks were carried with ladders. They were attached to chains and rope, and could help pull down a burning (or unburned!) building. Blasting powder served the same purpose.

Or as happened in the great New Bern fire of 1922, a Norfolk and Southern steam engine pulled down six houses along Queen Street. Another nearly 100 homes were dynamited. Read that account as part of this New Bern Public Library special program transcript.

And a heck of a good article from Fire Engineering from last month on Detroit: http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/..

Legeros - 04/25/12 - 08:31

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Wake Forest Fire Department Brotherhood Conference, Saturday, May 12

04/23/12 73 W, 1 I - + 11 - 9

The Wake Forest Fire Department is hosting a Brotherhood Conference on Saturday, May 12. The location is Ravenscroft School at 9409 Falls of Neuse Road, Raleigh. The event time is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The special guest is Lt. Ray McCormack, FDNY. This conference is free for any active firefighters. There are 400 slots max. Download the flyer (PDF), or click to read for contact information:

Spread the word….. Cocktail hour at Piper's Tavern immediately following the conference, 8304 Falls of Neuse Road. Great to see some instruction from outside the area. Let's fill the seats gang!

Silver - 04/24/12 - 10:51

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

National Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament, Monday, June 11

04/23/12 129 W, 1 I - + 9 - 5

The Raleigh Fire Department is hosting the sixth annual National Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament on Monday, June 11. And with a new location this year: Bentwinds Country Club, 6536 Dornoch Place, Fuquay-Varina, NC, 27526. Web site: www.bentwinds.com.

Tee time is 10:00 a.m., but arrive early for complementary breakfast, complimentary range balls, and the putting contest. Entry fee for a single golfer is $80. That also buys a full meal immediately following the tournament, and where door prizes and trophies are awarded.

Sponsorships are also sought. Individuals or organizations can sponsor a hole for $150. That includes signage and other recognition.

Read this flyer for more information. Or see photos from past tournaments. Such as this handsome bunch below...

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment: / Textile

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

Air Force One

04/24/12 97 W, 1 I - + 13 - 6

As photographed this morning by Yours Truly, during a ride-along with Raleigh-Durham Emergency Services. That's the big plane arriving, for the President's trip to Chapel Hill. The full white fleet was deployed to stand by: CFR 1 (mini-pumper), CFR 2, CFR 3, CFR 4 (three crash trucks), and CFR 10 (command vehicle). Plus Raleigh Engine 24, Ladder 6, and Battalion 4 (riding in CFR 10 along with some guy in a Hawaiian shirt). More photos to be posted. Next question, just how many law enforcement agencies were on scene today? Bet there were quite a few shades of blue... Click to enlarge:

Who rides in that ambulance the president has with him?
gitto - 04/26/12 - 23:38

Orange County Emergency Services employees staffed the ambulance that was in the motorcade from RDU to Chapel Hill and Back.
CHFD - 04/27/12 - 23:06

Was that the all black ambulance with the federal plates?

Thanks
Gitto - 04/28/12 - 12:57

The all-black ambulance was the US Secret Service HAMMER team (Hazardous Agent Mitigation / Medical Response Team). The team is composed of EMT/officers (uniformed division police officers, not special agents) who are haz-mat/chem-bio/decon experts. Their job is to care for and decon the man in the event of a threat that requires it. The ambulance is interesting – like a normal ambulance, but contains extrication tools, water tank, hose reel, and a stretcher that is built for decon on it.

When POTUS came to Raleigh a few years ago, the WEMS medics who were in the motorcade ambulance got a quick "tour" of the HAMMER unit, and a quick talk about the training and the job. It was pretty interesting.

Here's a pic: http://www.flickr.com/photos/av8pix/2574..

And the story: http://henney.com/chm/1204/CHM1204.pdf

CH-100 - 04/28/12 - 13:22

I forgot to answer the other half of the question.

Given that RDU sits central to the three counties,whichever county is the destination will provide the motorcade ambulance – Durham, Orange, or Wake. If there are events at the airport (speech, walk the rope) then Wake County provides EMS support at the request of the USSS ('cause all that is in Wake County). The host county for the event will (usually, depending on anticipated crowd, etc.) provide EMS for the venue as well – bike team, civilian rehab, stand-by units.

CH-100 - 04/28/12 - 13:37

Hammer time. Couple pics of the truck in my photos: http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/2012-0..

We'll see about an EMS embed next time…

Legeros - 04/28/12 - 13:55

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

Post Comment | Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Notify: ☐ Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: ☐ Yes, hide my email address.

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

Vintage Fayetteville Patch

04/25/12 34 W, 1 I - + 12 - 8

Found for sale on eBay, here's a vintage Fayetteville Fire Department patch. Unusual shape and colors, compared to current designs. Maybe a reader can advise its history. Click to enlarge:

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Notify: ☐ Yes, send me email when someone replies.

911 Misdialing Persists

04/25/12 141 W - + 13 - 9

As today's *News & Observer* story reports, accidental dialing of 911 is still a problem in Raleigh and Wake County, three weeks after the recent switch to 10-digit dialing. And if you *do* call 911 by mistake, please remain on the line. Otherwise, an officer will be sent. (They're dispatched on a daily average once every 7 1/2-minutes.) Data shows the majority of accidental calls are coming from senior citizens and business telephones. Notes Raleigh-Wake County Emergency Communications Center Director Barry Furey, ""If you have an elderly friend, relative, or neighbor, I'd like to personally ask you to take the time to make sure they understand to carefully dial 9-1-9." Finally, for your midweek amusement, here's an audio clip of Homer Simpson on the subject.

Mike – thanks for posting. To give everyone an idea how bad this is, in a typical month we historically dispatch about 900 hang-up calls. We are on a pace to handle about six times that number in April. This counts only those calls dispatched. It doesn't come close to representing all of those that we handle in-house when someone stays on the line or answers our call back. Those numbers are much, much higher. The other day I was standing behind a call taker who took 15 of these calls in a row. Fifteen! I can assure you that her ability to help anyone with a real emergency during that period just didn't exist. We're asking EVERY department that provides public education on emergency reporting to add this to their program. Staying on the line when you mis-dial saves the sending of an officer, but it still ties up our resources for a non-emergent event. We really need for people to take an extra second or two and take care when dialing.

RWECC - 04/30/12 - 00:09

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Vintage Color Slides of Raleigh Fires

04/26/12 143 W, 2 I - + 15 - 11

To complement our Mangel's fire photos from 1981 that we posted last week, here are some more vintage color photos of the Raleigh Fire Department. These are again from Robert L. Ott Sr., and courtesy of his son William Ott. His father passed away in 1993, but left a photographic legacy that his sons Lee and Bill are working to preserve.

This latest crop of fire shots are some of first color photos we've seen of these incidents. (For reasons unknown, color pictures and slides from back in the day have been exceptionally hard to find.) These are scans of 35mm color slides. The images include Hayes Barton Baptist Church in 1962, Warren Restaurant in 1964, and Baker Roofing Company in 1977. Read about those fires in our Raleigh Fire Department timelines.

See the photographs.

Robert L. Ott Sr. photos

Look closely and you'll see some Raleigh landmarks since gone (or transformed).

Union Station at the corner of Martin and Dawson, http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..

Gas works in the background on the right, http://raleighfiremuseum.org/photos/ott/..

More vanished Raleigh: http://legeros.com/vanished-raleigh/

And http://legeros.com/hidden-raleigh/

Legeros - 04/26/12 - 08:14

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Competition Teams, Antique and Modern Apparatus Wanted!

04/26/12 7 W, 1 I - + 12 - 9

Name: (real name preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes

Video of LP Tanks Burning, Explosion at a McDonald's Drive-Thru

04/27/12 73 W - + 13 - 5

This compelling citizen video is making the rounds. Two LP tanks ignited, burned, and exploded (is BLEVE'ed a verb?) in the back of a pick-up truck at a McDonald's drive-thru window in Coachella, CA. Better bloggers than myself have ably covered this story, notably Firegeezer and Statter911.com. Dave calls this one a "must see" video. Believe I'd agree.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Raleigh Fire Department Centennial History Book Underway

04/28/12 251 W, 1 I - + 18 - 3

To help commemorate this year's 100th anniversary of the Raleigh Fire Department, production has started on a centennial history book. Produced in partnership with Strawbridge Studios, the book will feature a text history of the fire department, 100 years of historical photos, station histories, apparatus photos, personnel portraits, and more.

Measuring 9 by 12-inches, the coffee table-sized hardcover will contain 260 full-color pages. The cost of this limited edition is $60.00 through December 1, 2012. Order forms are available at www.RFD100.com.

Over 100 years of historical photos will be featured, drawn from the archives of the Raleigh Fire Museum. "We have pictures dating to the 1880s," notes fire department Historian Mike Legeros. "That's the hand- and horse-drawn era," he adds. Plenty of modern fire photos will also be included. The book will draw upon the extensive work of the department's photo unit, which has been documenting incidents and events for over a decade and a half.

A group of firefighters are working on the book, which will be completed at the end of the year. They're collecting materials, historical information, and the hundreds of photos to be included. They're also hoping for photo contributions from both inside and outside the department. "We're still finding new old photos," says Legeros. "And you don't have to order a book to submit photos," he adds.

For more information about ordering a copy or submitting photos, visit www.RFD100.com.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Post Comment | Preview Comment | (Register your username / Log in)

North Carolina Fire Department Yearbooks, History Books?

04/28/12 113 W - + 10 - 11

Next question, how many departments in North Carolina have produced yearbooks, history books, or commemorative books over the years and decades? Anyone have a new book in production, and that's available for ordering? (For tips on producing your own fire department yearbook, see this article.)

Commemorative Books

- Asheville - 2000?*
- Charlotte - 1988*, 2000, 2007
- Durham - 1995
- Greensboro - 1984*, 1990, 2001
- Lenoir - 2002
- Raleigh - 1984, 2002, 2007, 2012 (in production)
- Rocky Mount - 1996*
- Wilmington - 1985*
- Winston-Salem - 1992, 2000*

Commercial History Books

- *Firefighting in Charlotte,* Shawn Royall, Arcadia, 2007
- *Raleigh and Wake County Firefighting*, Mike Legeros, Arcadia, 2003
- *Raleigh and Wake County Firefighting Volume II*, Mike Legeros, Arcadia, 2004

* Notes book wanted! Will pay cash money to expand my library...

Did Charlotte have a fourth book, maybe in 1995?
Legeros - 04/28/12 - 08:27

Rocky Mount has a book, that came out in 1996 (100 year).
Todd - 04/28/12 - 15:46

Thanks Todd!
Legeros - 04/28/12 - 20:18

Durham Fire History is in the research stage with lots of great photos and stories being uncovered.
durhamfire.net (Web Site) - 04/30/12 - 20:23

Since 2013 the Rocky Mount Fire Department has a new book out, titled Rocky Mount Fire Department. It is a 204 page pictorial history book.
Todd Joyner (Email) - 06/23/14 - 11:54

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Mystery Street

04/28/12 19 W, 1 I - + 12 - 7

Can you place this cul-de-sac? Perhaps the picture offers clues...

Let's see… A very old double-yellow (triple, really) line and fog lines, so I'm thinking an old, established road that was suddenly cut off for something new, such as… maybe an interstate? But then, the trees are tall and well-established, so it can't be anything recent like NC-540 or the 64 Bypass. Am I warm?

It's interesting there's a curb on one side but not the other. And from the missing sign, I'm guessing at least one driver failed to recognize the cul-de-sac for what it was.

rfburns - 04/28/12 - 23:20

Good lines of thinking, there!

Here's a tip. The location can perhaps be triangulated from my Facebook postings of late. If you solve the mystery, please show your work! Brag a bit!

Legeros - 04/29/12 - 11:08

I was originally thinking the airport area, since the first sections of 540 made a lot of old, established roads become sudden dead-ends. And I see you were at the airport for the president's visit. But browsing Google Maps, I just can't find any cut off streets that seem to look like this.

rfburns - 04/30/12 - 10:33

Okay, Mike, I'm also at a loss and actually have given this location much thought but to no avail. Any more hints?

Rescue Ranger - 05/02/12 - 11:23

Not every old, established road is a major road! This one's outside I-440 but inside I-540.

Legeros - 05/02/12 - 13:18

Really curious about this one. From your clues, can we assume that the road wasn't cut off to make I-440 or I-540?

mark (Email) - 05/04/12 - 14:58

Sorry for the delayed response. This road was NOT terminated during the construction of either I-440 or I-540. It's near both a movie theater and a sports bar. Those could gleaned (maybe) from my Facebook postings. Let's add that this location is in a pleasant area.
Legeros - 05/07/12 - 10:43

Grr, my part of town too. Pleasant Grove Church Rd at the dead end past where it turns off to Millbrook Rd.
RPD - 05/07/12 - 19:33

4000 block of Pleasant Grove Church Rd. Found on google maps. The bar would probably be Lynnwood Grill and the movie theater is the Raleigh Grande.
Marcus - 05/07/12 - 19:50

Darn it… I looked right at that dead-end on Google Maps, but from the aerial view, you can't see the center line on the road so I bypassed that road.
rfburns - 05/07/12 - 21:40

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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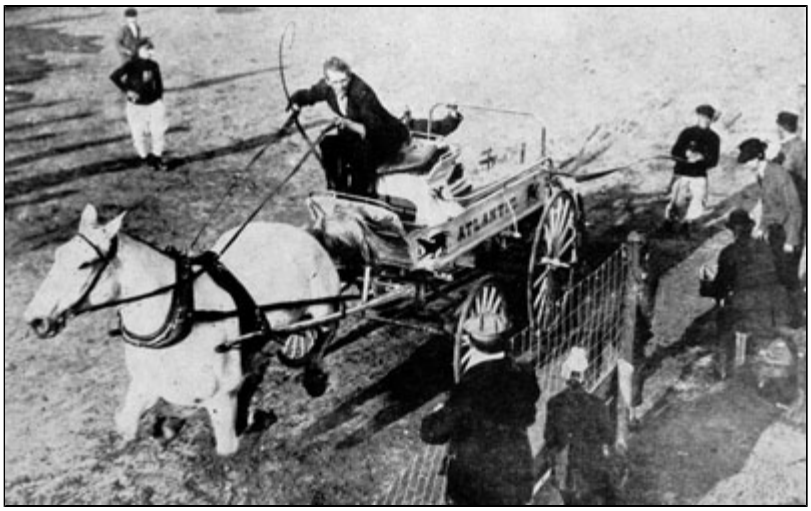
Firefighter Games a Long Tradition in North Carolina

04/29/12 248 W, 2 I - + 12 - 14

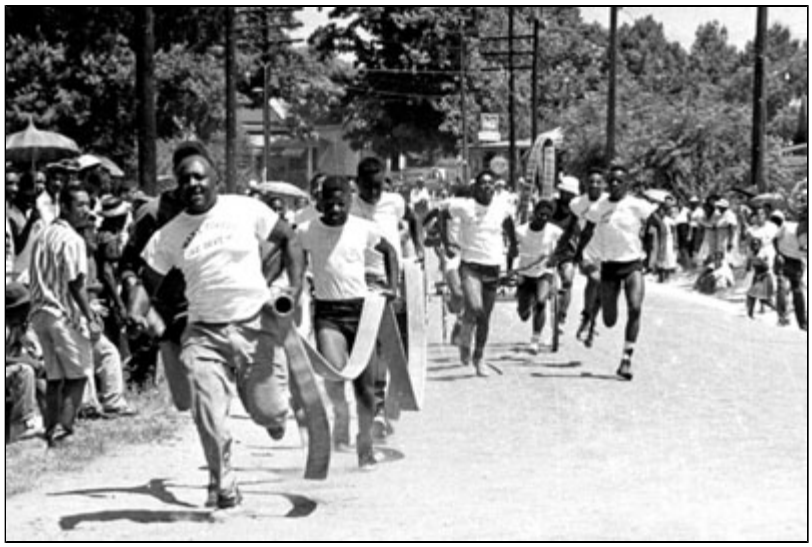
Contests between North Carolina's firefighters are as old as many of the departments themselves. After the Civil War, newspapers reported the excursions of firemen from one city to another. In September 1869, for example, some 30 members of Raleigh's Merchants Independent Fire Company were received by the Steam Fire Engine Company of New Bern. Inevitably, such visits included competitions between the visiting and home firefighters. In August 1882, the colored firefighters of Wilmington received Raleigh's Victor Company. Among the activities was a "reel contest." The prize was awarded for the best time for pulling a hand hose reel for 250 yards, laying 100 feet of hose, detaching, attaching, and flowing water from a hydrant. Wilmington's Cape Fear Company No. 3 made the best run.

Read the rest of the story in the latest issue of Carolina Fire Rescue EMS Journal, Vol. 26, No. 4. The article is accompanied by a detailed overview of the Raleigh Fire Department Centennial events in downtown Raleigh on Saturday 16. Included are descriptions of the four firefighter challenge events. Have you registered your team yet?

And here's our web page version of the story, with clickable photos and some NCSFA tournament rules excerpts from 1916.



Atlantic Fire Company of New Bern in hose wagon contest, circa 1900. That year's tournament was held in Wilmington.



Wake Forest Fire Department #2 competing in a closing event of the 67th annual session of the North Carolina Volunteer Fireman's

Association, July 1957. News & Observer photograph.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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This Morning's Fatal House Fire in Fuquay-Varina

04/29/12 114 W, 1 I - + 10 - 14

WTVD has posted a short video story about this morning's house fire in Fuquay-Varina where two men were killed. The fire was reported about 7:30 a.m. at 128 Bridge Street. The one-story, ranch-style dwelling with a full basement measured 1,320 square-feet and was built in 1959. Seven people reportedly lived at the residence. The fire started in a downstairs area, reports this NBC17 story, but investigators haven't determined the cause. Units on scene included Fuquay-Varina E5, E4, E3, E2, L1, R1, Tanker 2, Tanker 3, B1, C20, C1, Holly Springs E2, Wake County EMS 9, EMS 14, EMS 17, EMS 8, D2, T1. Wake County Fire Services WC1 and Raleigh Car 20 were among the investigators.

Kudos to all that worked the scene. Double fatality is hard enough. Good Job Fuquay! Looks like there was some pretty good fire in that basement. All the training you guys do looks to have paid off real well. Again Good Job to all!
South Side - 04/29/12 - 22:04

This blog is read by firefighters mostly. I understand what your saying but it isn't directed to residence of Fuquay but to the men and women that protect the town. You should be proud to live where you have such great protection. I just hope the personnel who worked this scene don't read your comment but the ones that are praising their heroism and bravery for the job they do each and everyday.
south side - 04/29/12 - 23:34

Fuquay-Varina E3, rescue 1, tanker 2 & 3 and car 20
south - 04/30/12 - 00:50

Thanks for everyone's notes. Sensitivity is good with regard to balancing the tragedy of a fatal house fire (as well as any non-fatal or non-injury producing property loss) with the "pride of the profession" that manifests at most or maybe every structure fire. Firefighters train and train and train to be effective on "that worst day." And they express themselves afterward, and support and reinforce each other, in a manner that can seem puzzling to the outsider. And might seem downright insensitive in some contexts. But that's what makes a good firefighter. They remain positive and enthusiastic about their work, despite the dour (or worse) outcomes. (How's that for a lofty-sounding summation?)
Legeros - 04/30/12 - 08:12

With the fire conditions that were present upon arrival, there was nothing that could have been done for the 2 victims. FVFD and HSFD did an outstanding job with the scene. Fire was knocked down quickly and everyone returned home safe!
Food for Thought - 04/30/12 - 20:07

Fairview Engine 3 moved up to Fuquay Station 1 for coverage, Garner Engine 2 moved to Fuquay Station 2.
FFD - 04/30/12 - 20:43

Thanks for the coverage from Fairveiw E-3 and Garner E-3.
911 - 05/01/12 - 11:04

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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Maxton's 1957 GMC Pumper For Sale (and Some History)

04/29/12 521 W, 1 I - + 14 - 14

Here's a gem as found for auction on GovDeals, a 1957 GMC pumper from the Maxton Fire Department. Twelve bids at present. Truck doesn't run, alas. Operating condition isn't known, either. Looks like a heck of a restoration project for someone! See many more pics and details. Looks like the truck was serving as late as 1982, based on subsequent Google News Archives research (!).

Next question, what happened to Maxton FD? Looks like they were a town-based department until 1984, when MFD was approved to start serving a rural district named Queheel. By 1997, they were named Maxton-Queheel Fire Department. That same year, Queheel Fire Department took over protection for the town. (What the heck is a Queheel? No idea...) See sources and Sunday night research below the jump. Need to stop and poke around on my next trip to Myrtle Beach!

Google News Archives finds...

- Oct 1972 - Open house planned at new Maxton fire station on Central Street. Also housed Maxton Rescue Squad. From Google Maps, looks like corner of Central and Middle streets. Might have served as city garage in recent decade. Next question, where was fire station prior to 1972?
- Dec 1977 - Maxton FD to seek funding from neighboring Scotland County for answering calls in eastern part of county. Robesonian story notes that most of Maxton's fire equipment was donated by the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport Commission, and thus they haven't charging the airport for responses. (The airport, a former military air base, is midway between Laurinburg and Maxton. See some recent pictures.) Most of the equipment is noted as outdated for insurance purposes, but still functional. The town was looking at a "scat truck" (Air Force term for a small, quick response rig that carried Purple-K powder) but that was deemed inappropriate for MFD's needs.
- Jan 1982 - The 27-man department is entirely volunteer. The 1957 GMC pumper is still in service, but doesn't pump to capacity.
- Aug 1984 - Maxton FD forms ladies auxiliary.
- Jan 1984 - Maxton FD approved to serve Queheel Fire District, an area outside the town's perimeter. Was this the first formal "rural district" outside Maxton?
- May 1994 - Maxton FD still named in news reports. Department is entirely volunteer. Only a small percentage live within city limits.
- Sep 1997 - Queheel-Maxton FD now cited as department name.
- Nov 1997 - Town authorized to pay QFD the sum of $20,000 to "serve as Maxton's fire department."
- May 2001 - Ground broken on new QMFD station on East Rockingham Street.

Secretary of State corporation records find Queheel FD incorporated in August 1993. Seems a logical conclusion that a town-funded and/or town-operated Maxton FD evolved into a private Queheel FD.

How did that happen, historically? Maxton was probably a thriving (if small) railroad town for decades. They had a fire department, which drew

on volunteers that lived and worked in the town. Then people started working and living outside the town center. By the end of the 20th Century, the resources to run a fire department were not sufficiently town-based. We've seen that story before in our state.

Looks like it has already sold. I would love to have it since I like old GMC trucks. I hope it gets restored.
fire1983 - 05/02/12 - 17:47

All I can tell you is that the town wasnt giving us enough money so they became queheel and started getting money from the county
BJ - 07/06/12 - 01:01

So here's the history I can remember of that truck. I started volunteering with the Maxton Junior Volunteer Fire Dept in 1989. That truck, was our oldest engine, housed at Station 2 located under the town's only water town (at the time) on Water St. We kept it there because it was on the other side of the railroad tracks that divided the town, and it was the only other place we had space.

That truck actually had a Pontiac V-8 in it, a small block with a 2 barrel carburetor, but it was the fasted truck we owned. It would do 70 mph easy. It also had hydraulic brakes, which was a pain. And if I recall correctly, it also had a 2-stage pump. It was built by American LaFrance on a GMC chassis.

When I started volunteering, it was "Maxton Fire Dept" and 100% volunteer. We were provided a small budget from the Town of Maxton. We had 3 engines, one tanker (tender), a brush truck, and an equipment van. Maxton Fire Dept also provided fire protection to the surrounding community, but received no tax revenues for doing so. All funding came from Town of Maxton tax revenues only.

QUEHEEL FIRE DEPARTMENT was officially incorporated on 08/05/1993. That was official dept of the established rural fire district. But no taxation was approved for the geographical area, so the organization really existed only on paper. Sometime in the 1990's we got a voter referendum passed allowing $0.10 per every $100 of property evaluation. Once a revenue stream began, the Dept switched to functioning as Queheel. It was the same people in the same fire station riding the same trucks fighting the same fires. But just the name changed. In turn, the Town of Maxton signed a contract that paid the Queheel Fire Dept to provided all fire protection in the Town of Maxton in exchange for $20,000 and use of the existing apparatus.

Sometime in the early 2000's the Dept moved from the old Station at the intersection of Central and Middle Streets, to 108 E Rockingham Rd.

On 1/12/2016 the name was officially changed to Queheel Fire and Rescue Department.
John Dixon - 10/06/18 - 22:34

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

North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service, Saturday, May 5

04/30/12 202 W, 1 I - + 17 - 11

The Seventh Annual North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service takes place this Saturday, May 5, in downtown Raleigh. There are two events planned for the day: an apparatus and honor guard procession at 10:00 a.m. and the memorial service at 1:00 p.m. See the memorial service web site for more information. See photos by Legeros of past year's ceremonies.

The procession starts at 10:00 a.m. at Hillsborough and St. Mary's streets, and continues south on Dawson Street to the memorial at Nash Square. That's in front of Fire Station 1. Participating are fire departments that have lost one or more members in the line of duty.

The service starts at 1:00 p.m. at Nash Square. Six names of fallen firefighters will added to the North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Memorial:

James Walters Sr.	Parkton Volunteer Fire Department	Jan. 29, 2011
Richard Leo Barbour	Wilson's Mills Fire Rescue	Feb. 4, 2011
David Hunsinger Jr.	Tar Heel Rural Volunteer Fire Department	Apr. 7, 2011
Jeffrey Scott Bowen	Asheville Fire Department	Jul. 28,. 2011
George W. Fisher III	Sandy Bottom Volunteer Fire and Rescue	Sep. 22, 2011
Johnnie Lynn Norton	Hot Springs Volunteer Fire Department	Nov. 24, 2011

One Sweet Tanker

05/01/12 50 W, 1 I - + 12 - 7

Here's a sharp-looking tanker featured as a new delivery on FireNews.net. 2011 Kenworth/Crimson tanker, 750 GPM, 3,000 gallon tank. Love those chevrons. What are some of the monster tankers serving around our area? And are any tractor-drawn tankers still used in the central Piedmont?

FireNews.net photo

I believe Halifax FD has a tractor-drawn unit.
Duda (Email) - 05/01/12 - 09:08

Not sure of the Central Piedmont, but i know Hargett's Crossroads VFD in Jones Co. had one. Also I think Winnabow FD in Brunswick CO. had one but it was for sale. It isn't listed on their website anymore.
Maynard - 05/01/12 - 10:32

Halifax FD is not the one with the tractor drawn unit, it is Scotland Neck Fire Department unit.
Evans - 05/01/12 - 12:18

Parkwood has twin 3,000 gallon tankers
shevais - 05/01/12 - 13:48

Down in cumberland county we have 2 currently, Wade Community Fire Dept (Sta 16) has a 3000 gallon freightliner tanker/pumper. Prior to receiving this vehicle they were running a tractor drawn tanker that I believe was either 5000 or 6000 gallons. Also Vander Fire Dept (Sta 2) placed in service a monster 3500 gallon pumper/tanker last year.
justin - 05/01/12 - 14:33

Hargett's Crossroads has gotten rid of their tractor trailer and replaced it with a Fouts 3000 gallon tanker.
car3550 - 05/01/12 - 16:18

Hampstead FD in Pender County used to have a tractor drawn 6 or 8 thousand gallon tanker. Unsure if it is still in service or not
Chris - 05/01/12 - 21:42

Wake County's most recent crop of tanker deliveries were based on two-axle specs developed a few years ago. If memory serves, the committee that created those specs chose fewer (two) versus more (three) axles (and the resulting larger capacity) based on reasons including safety concerns.

In prior decades, a number of departments operated beastly tankers, notably Durham Highway and Fairgrounds. Those two were the largest around here, I recall.

Legeros - 05/01/12 - 21:45

Rolesville had a 2500 gallon tanker (Bertha). From those of us that haul water a super large tanker really doesn't work well in a water shuttle. It's too difficult to maneuver and dump, especially in a subdivision. The super large ones usually just pull up and set the brake.

[Photo added…]

AB - 05/01/12 - 23:46

Over the years the 2 tractor trailer tankers that come to mind are the former Oakhurst VFD in Mecklenburg Co had one that later went to Flowes Store VFD re-tractored with the same tank attached and Atwell Twp in Rowan County ran a tractor drawn tanker at one time. Both of these are long gone.

BFD1151 - 05/02/12 - 08:07

Old Swift Creek Tanker 6 was 2500 gallons.

[Lee Wilson photo added…]

Bob P. - 05/02/12 - 11:33

Way back when it was established in several places that when establishing a water shuttle around these parts, a 1200-1500 gallon tanker allowed for more fireground water flow by being more maneuverable, faster to fill, and faster to dump.

As to other big tankers, Moncure had one similar to Swift Creek's, Wilson's Mills had a 2200 (they may still have it, only remounted now), and Cape Carteret ran a 3000 gallon on a Ford C8000. I also think Parkwood at one time had a big one, but not sure of the capacity.

DJ - 05/02/12 - 12:10

North Whiteville Fire Department in Columbus County has a mid 90's Freightliner tractor trailer tanker, I believe the trailer is 3000 gallons and is old

car3550 - 05/02/12 - 13:25

Old Richmond Fire Department in Forsyth County recently placed a KME pumper tanker in service, 3000 gallon tank and I want to say a 1500GPM pump. Also carries in the area of 150 feet of ground ladders.

CRK - 05/02/12 - 19:57

Here's that bad boy at ORFD.

Wow!

Legeros - 05/02/12 - 20:01

Selma also use to have a tractor-trailer unit, which ran as 'Selma 6'. It was also Johnston County's foam unit. It was not kept at the fire station, rather at the town shops. If memory serves, it had a White tactor. The pump and pumping motor were mounted at the back of the trailer.

DJ - 05/02/12 - 20:50

Selma's tractor-drawn foam truck, photo by Jeff Harkey.

Legeros - 05/02/12 - 20:55

That Old Richmond Pumper/ Tanker is nice. Speaking on the large tankers, they like most apparatus has their time and place. In a nurse feed operation they seem to work really well, but in the water shuttle operation, like someone said before, they screw the rotation up. A tractor drawn or even a 3500 gallon tanker would be nice nurseing the first in engine in the rural setting on your regular 1000- 2000 square foot dwellings. At the dept. I work for we very rarely use drop tanks and stick to nurseing unless you have a 3500 square foot home burning from one end to the other, in the middle of the night, with 1 1/2" of ice and snow on the road. Or even when you have 3 10,000 square foot each hay barns and numerous small buildings and machinery involved when you pull up. this has been a great discussion thus far.

911 - 05/02/12 - 21:31

Correction to crk's post on the Old Richmond Pumper/ tanker, it has 115' of ground ladders and an added and rare 4000 foot of 5" supply. Their website and pictures show 2 preconnected handlines in the front bumper as well as 2 speedlays behind the cab. Do you all think this is over kill?

911 - 05/02/12 - 21:38

@911, knew it was over 100', couldn't remember for sure though. As far as over kill…..I've got a opinion on it but won't voice it here

CRK - 05/03/12 - 12:53

I hear ya. Thats still a lot of ladders for a engine and hose. Imo.h

911 - 05/03/12 - 20:04

In Cabarrus County, Georgeville VFD has a 2500 gal pumper/ tanker, Odell has a 2200 gal unit, Kannapolis has a 2000 gal that actually runs as Engine 51 and Harrisburg had a tractor drawn unit that is now privately owned.

JP17 - 05/08/12 - 10:00

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

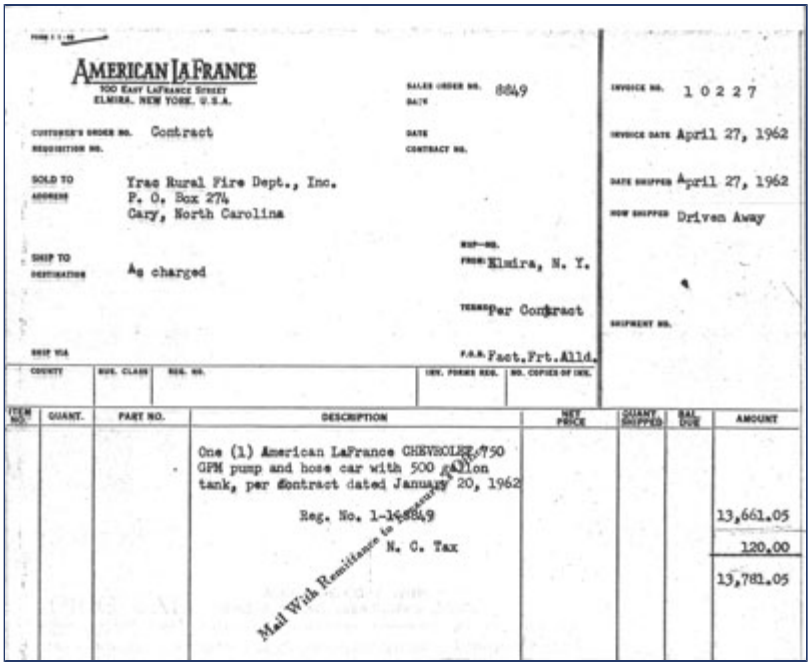
Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Bill of Sale, Yrac Rural Fire Department, 1962

05/02/12 72 W, 3 I - + 10 - 9

This is a bill of sale from American Lafrance to the Yrac Rural Fire Department for "one (1) American LaFrance Chevrolet 750 GPM pump and hose car with 500 gallon tank." Purchase price $13,781.05. Includes $120 sales tax. Shipped on April 27, 1962. Method of delivery was "driven away." Read some history of Yrac FD. That's Cary spelled backward, if you didn't catch it. Click to enlarge:



AMERICAN LA FRANCE
700 East LaFrance Street
Elmira, New York, U.S.A.

SALES ORDER NO. 8849
INVOICE NO. 10227
CUSTOMER'S ORDER NO. Contract
INVOICE DATE April 27, 1962
SOLD TO Yrac Rural Fire Dept., Inc.
P. O. Box 274
Cary, North Carolina
DATE SHIPPED April 27, 1962
HOW SHIPPED Driven Away
SHIP TO As charged
FROM Elmira, N. Y.
TERMS Per Contract
F.O.B. Fact.Frt.Alld.

ITEM NO.	QUANT.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION	NET PRICE	QUANT SHIPPED	BAL DUE	AMOUNT
			One (1) American LaFrance CHEVROLET 750 GPM pump and hose car with 500 gallon tank, per Contract dated January 20, 1962				
			Reg. No. 1-14884 9				13,661.05
			N. C. Tax				120.00
							13,781.05

Mail With Remittance to Yrac Rural Fire Dept.

Now that was a fire truck. Awesome. Drove good, and the pump just purred. I remember riding the back step, too. I was tall enough that I could see way on down the road in front of us.

DJ - 05/02/12 - 12:05

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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

Post Comment | Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Notify: ☐ Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: ☐ Yes, hide my email address.

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

Remembering Fairgrounds Engine 196 and Durham Highway Unit 8

05/02/12 103 W, 2 I - + 8 - 6

Continuing on yesterday's topic of tankers, here's a pair of big ones that once served Fairgrounds and Durham Highway fire departments. Can't find any real good (e.g. Lee Wilson style) posed photos in my digital archives. We'll make do with these shots. Top is a 1985 Kenworth/Grumman Firecat, 1250 GPM, 2500 gallon pumper-tanker. (Read about "The Beast.") Bottom is a 1984 Mack/Darley 1500 GPM, 1800 gallon pumper-tanker and which was the longest unit in the county at the time. (Those specs correct?)

---

8 ball
Mike - 05/02/12 - 10:38

Where are they now?
fire1983 - 05/02/12 - 17:38

8 Ball (Durham Highway's truck) was donated to Kerr Lake Fire Dept which was then shut down/acquired by the county over there. I am assuming they still have it though.
DH - 05/03/12 - 12:09

I didnt know that the newly formed Kerr lake fire dept was shut down. Was it forcea-kinda merge?d it did they sort-
911 - 05/03/12 - 20:08

After the merger of Kerr Lake with Vance County, I believe that the former Durham Highway truck was donated to Hicksboro Fire Department.
102 - 05/04/12 - 20:58

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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Wake County EMS System Reunion 2012

05/02/12 107 W, 2 I - + 7 - 7

Members of the Wake County EMS System family are invited to a reunion event on Thursday, May 17, at the Wake County Conference Center, 4011 Carya Drive, Raleigh. The festivities start at 10:00 a.m. with a meet and greet. Lunch is served at 11:00 a.m., barbecue, $10 at the door. Historical fun is planned from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. They'll have a photo booth, service member recognitions, and then and now display of EMS vehicles and equipment. Visit this web site for more information, including an RSVP form. See you there!

Fire Chief Ed Brinson Named Assistant Director of NCSFA

05/02/12 118 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

Press release. Edward P. Brinson has been selected to serve as the Assistant Director of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association. Chief Brinson is known to many and currently serves as the Chief of the Fairview Fire Department in Apex. He has been involved with the fire service at the local, regional and state levels over the years. He served as President of the North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Foundation from 2004 to 2007, and is a member of many national and international fire service organizations. Chief Brinson begins his work with the NCSFA on May 14. Read the entire press release. Congratulations, Chief!

Congrats Chief.
Silver - 05/02/12 - 22:34

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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DCFD Engine 10 Newly Remodeled

05/03/12 105 W, 8 I - + 8 - 6

Firefighter/photographer Stanley Jaworksi passed along a couple shots of DCFD Engine 10. The station at 1341 Maryland Avenue NE was recently remodeled into a four-unit, loft-style condo building. The remodeled preserved the historic facade of the 1894 structure, while adding two three-level townhomes and two "affordable-rate" condos. See this PDF document and this web site for more info. Below is the "before" shot, when Mr. Blogger found and photographed all former firehouses in DC. See those photos from 2009. Or see my history page about DC historic firehouses.

Mike Legeros photo

Stanley Jaworski photos

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Hide email: ☐ Yes, hide my email address.

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Four Guilford Fire Departments Brace for Budget Cuts

05/03/12 127 W, 1 I - + 8 - 2

Found via hpfirefighter.com, here's an interesting MyFOX8 story about budget cuts in Greensboro and Guilford County. The city is trying to tighten its budget by $4.1 million. The fire department is cutting $1 million from their budget. They've passed $300,000 of the cuts to the "rural" fire departments that they contract with. As the story notes, Colfax FD, District 13 FD, McLeansville FD, and Pinecroft-Sedgefield FD (misnamed Pine Cross Sedgefield) are affected. **Read or watch the story**. Google doesn't (yet) find any other stories on the Greensboro Fire Department budget, or its further plans. That's certainly a tricky area, public reporting about public safety budgets and budget processes. [Insert additional pontifications as desired. Have to get ready for work...]

How much duplication of service exists between the contract departments and city? Do they think the costs be saved by cutting administration positions and allowing the city department to run that minor stuff, therefore saving the tax payers money overall, and not cutting service to the citizens.

ncems - 05/03/12 - 09:55

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Separated at Birth?

05/03/12 147 W, 1 I - + 5 - 5

These two highly suspicious characters have been seen hanging around fire stations in Raleigh and Wake County. They should be considered armed with cameras and dangerously funny-looking. John Doe #1 is easily spotted by his clothing, except when walking among tropical plants. He's known for immobilizing his victims with lengthy stories of fire department history. Approach with caution, especially if you're not wearing your PPE on scene. He can be easily subdued, however, with large servings of chicken and rice. John Doe #2 is identified by his characteristic fire department t-shirts. His modus operandi involves frequent requests of station crews to pose their apparatus. He hibernates during early daylight hours and can be trapped using a length of charged five-inch hose. Recommended bait is either barbecue or a UNC basketball game. Please contact local authorities if you see them. Click to enlarge... if you dare:

Are we sure this is not a Raleigh PD Wanted Picture? ;)
Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR (Email) (Web Site) - 05/03/12 - 20:19

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

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Lake Norman's New Pierce Engine (and Others)

05/04/12 165 W, 2 I - + 8 - 7

Found on the Pierce Flickr page, this sharp-looking Pierce Arrow XT was delivered to Lake Norman Fire Department in Iredell County. Serves as Engine 2, says the department's web site. See larger version. Lake Norman, by the way, is the largest fresh water body in North Carolina. Over 50 square miles. And which compels the obvious question: how many fire departments in how many countries serve Lake Norman? And with how many fire boats??

The company's Flickr page is a great site for armchair apparatus viewing. Check out the Spring 2012 deliveries set and the assorted rigs delivered to China. Couple monster three-axle, industrial-looking pumpers in there. Here's another Flickr user's shot of job 25130 on a flatbed in Los Angeles (I think), headed probably to the port.

The Pierce New Delivery site has a smaller subset of photos, but still some interesting finds. Here's Fayetteville's Pierce Arrow XT pumper that was delivered in January. Nice looking truck!

"how many fire departments in how many countries serve Lake Norman?"

Is that like a fusion of a country and a county? USwake? ;)
Websters - 05/04/12 - 11:38

That Lake Norman truck is one good looking piece.
Any new Pierces coming to Wake Co/Raleigh that we know of yet?
Buckwheat - 05/04/12 - 14:07

Rolesville just received a new engine this Wednesday come check it out wont be in service for a week or two tho
RRFD - 05/04/12 - 14:25

Is it a Pierce?
911 - 05/04/12 - 16:08

Davidson, Cornelius, and Huntersville in Mecklenburg Co; Lake Norman and Mt Mourne in Iredell Co; Sherrils Ford-Terrell in Catawba Co, Denver and East Lincoln in Lincoln Co serve Lake Norman. I think just about each dept has a boat with the exception of Davidson, Mt Mourne and East Lincoln.
BFD1151 - 05/04/12 - 19:05

yes its a pierce
RRFD - 05/04/12 - 20:45

The Lake Norman engine is one of the sharpest I've seen. I especially like the covering over the light tower being red instead of diamond plate. Diamond plate on the roof really detracts from some beautiful trucks.
Jason T (Email) - 05/04/12 - 22:03

Also shepherds fire dept in iredell county has a fire boat.
cody - 05/09/12 - 17:18

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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

S.O.B. Security

05/04/12 55 W, 11 I - + 11 - 6

With travel on our mind this week, how about an oldie but goodie? Shot this six years ago at South of the Border. While we're here, how about some photos of Pedro's fire station? Here's the blog thread from back then. You never sausage a place. Click to enlarge:

Pedro's upgraded his apparatus. The old Engine 1 has been replaced with a Ford/American LaFrance of more recent vintage:

See pics: http://www.flickr.com/photos/legeros/set..

Legeros - 05/10/12 - 09:12

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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

Ladder 2 First Due

05/05/12 149 W, 1 I - + 10 - 4

That's one of Raleigh's reserve ladders at last night's commercial structure fire at 2809 Brewton Place. It's operating as Ladder 2, which found the fire after investigating smoke they and Engine 11 smelled/saw while returning from another call. The 1999 American LaFrance/LTI platform ladder (1500/300/93') arrived at a one-story metal garage building with 2,400 square-feet. Built 1969. Occupied by an auto repair business. Heavy smoke was showing. Lines were pulled and a supply line connected to the ladder truck. Crews made entry, first to the gated property and then to building, and quickly controlled a fire inside. Run card included E11, E19, E27, E21, L2, R2, B2, A1, C10, C20, C40. Finding fires by finding smoke is the oldest story in the book. What are some your great stories of sighting or sniffing out structure fires? See a few photos from last night.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

North Charleston Fire Department Group Photo

05/07/12 156 W, 1 I - + 16 - 9

How about an old-fashioned fire department group photo, with a complete fleet of apparatus and vehicles *and* all personnel ? The North Charleston Fire Department in South Carolina made this stunning image, which is found on their web site. View a larger version as the cover page of their Stragetic Plan document (PDF). Give a gold star to the planners of that shot! NCFD operates 12 stations and what looks like 12 engines (including a quint?), five ladders, and two rescues. Plus some other special units. (They're the third-largest city in the state. Are they the third largest fire department, also?) Believe the background is City Hall and the photographer perhaps on the roof of a nearby commercial building? Talk about a perfect setting! What other fire department group photos have you seen that you liked, either on the web or hanging in stations? Click to enlarge:

Wow, and to think that a single fire alarm or medical call could have ruined it!

rfburns - 05/07/12 - 21:43

What is most interesting to me is that North Charleston is a relatively new city – just incorporated in 1972. I have taught several EMD classes in North Charleston. Yes, that's their city hall. I've been nothing but impressed with NCFD and also the county EMS system. They also have an awesome 911 center that has just consolidated from several smaller PSAPS. I look forward to each class I teach down there – very professional group!

Jason T (Email) - 05/08/12 - 02:32

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment: / Textile

Mystery Slabs

05/07/12 60 W, 1 I - + 11 - 3

Seen this weekend on the grounds of the old Charleston Naval Yard, which is located along the Cooper River in North Charleston. Uniformed shaped concrete slabs, located beside abandoned rail spurs. Sections of foundations or flooring? Used for barrier reef building? Inquiring mind wants to know! More photos later.

I had to try to research these concrete pylons a bit, I thought I knew what they were but I tried to prove it. I was able to find where they are mentioned but not specifically. They are a jig system referred to as the "Steel Crib or Cribs" in my opinion. They would be for laying out the beam and ribs of the ship while another ship was still under construction in the dry docks. The rail line would be for transporting the steel into the crib and the assemblies out.

stretch - 05/08/12 - 09:19

Tremendous! Thanks for being a resource, Stretch.

Legeros - 05/08/12 - 09:29

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Fire Commission Meeting Notice & Documents - May 10, 2012

05/07/12 283 W - + 6 - 3

The next meeting of the Wake County Fire Commission is Thursday, May 10, 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 Carya Drive. Below is the agenda and a list of meeting documents, that are posted here.

Agenda

- Call meeting to order Invocation
  - Roll of Members Present
  - Approval of Agenda
- Minutes Adoption of Minutes for March 22nd, 2012, Regular Meeting
- Regular Agenda
  - Fire Tax Budget Committee
    - Committee Recommended FY 2013 Fire Tax Budget
    - Staff Recommended FY 2013 Fire Tax Budget
  - Consider Recommended Fire Protection Agreement
  - Consider Recommended Amendment to Fire Compensation Administrative Guidelines
  - Apparatus Committee
    - Recommended Wake New Hope Apparatus Replacement
- Information Agenda
  - Fire Tax Financial Report
  - Chair Report
  - Fire and Emergency Management Director Report
  - County Budget Update
- Other Business
- Public Comments
  - 30 minutes maximum time allotted, Maximum 3 minutes per person
- Adjournment - Next Meeting July 19th , 2012

Meeting Documents

- 1. Agenda
  (See 01 _5-10-2012 Agenda.pdf)
- 1(A). Draft Minutes March 22, 2012
  (See 01A _Minutes, March 22, 2012.pdf)
- 2. Fire Tax Budget Committee
  (See 02 _Committee Recommended FY 2013 Fire Tax Budget.pdf)\
  (See 03 _Staff Recommended FY 2013 Fire Tax Budget.pdf)
- 3. Recommended Fire Protection Agreement
  (See 04 _Fire Contract amended 03.01.12 REDLINE.pdf)
  (See 05 _Revised Fire Agreement for May 2012 Meeting_Fire Commission.pdf)
- 4. Recommended Amendment to Fire Compensation Administrative Guidelines
  (See 06 _Amendments _ Compensation Administrative Guidelines.pdf)
  (See 07 _Compensation Administrative Guidelines_Amended v1.pptx.pdf)
  (See 08 _Compensation Committee Recommendation.pdf)
  (See 09 _County_FD Leave Accrual Comparisons.pdf)
- 5. Apparatus Committee Report
  (See 10 _Apparatus Committee Recommendation - Wake New Hope Apparatus Replacement.pdf)
- 6. Fire Tax Financial Report
  (See 11 _Fire Comm Finance Reports - July 1 to May (FY12 YTD).pdf)

See documents

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Scenes From a Shipyard

05/08/12 159 W, 4 I - + 8 - 4

Here are a few fire-related sights from the old Charleston Naval Shipyard, which is located on the Cooper River in North Charleston, S.C. Top is the yard's old fire station. Not sure if there was more than one. Next is North Charleston Fire Station 2. Might be a converted building that wasn't a fire station. (The Navy ceased operations at the yard in 1996.) There's a gate in the rear to allow access into the old shipyard, which is now a commercial and industrial development area. (And with at least one residential area as well.) Below that is a reserve E-One engine and a USAR rig, parked at Station 2. **See more photos from the shipyard**. Thanks to Stretch for identifying the mystery slabs in our prior posting.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

What a Cistern Lid Looks Like

05/09/12 160 W, 1 I - + 5 - 4

This cistern lid is located in Washington Square in Savannah, GA. The lid, which measures four or five feet in diameter, is located 20 feet north of a brass plaque that sits upon a brick stand. The plaque reads:

> Washington Fire Company No. 9 - 1847 to 1875
>
> Located at this site. The volunteer Washington Fire Company No. 9 provided fire protection to Washington and adjacent wards for 28 years. The top of a cistern visible 20 feet north served as a water reservoir for the fire apparatus. The men of the Washington Fire Company were memorialized by the placement of this cornerstone at Fire Station No. 1, which was built at 522 East Brought Street in 1878. This was Savannah's first municipal fire station, which was demolished in 1962.
>
> Dedicated to the brave firemen of Fire Station No. 1
>
> Who also served as mentors and role models for the youth of the "Old Fort" section of Savannah.
>
> October 14, 2007.

Click to enlarge:

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment:

/ Textile

Hilton Head Island Airport Fire Department

05/09/12 96 W, 2 I - + 14 - 6

Here's a peek inside the bays of the Hilton Head Island Airport Fire Department. The station is staffed with two career firefighters, who operated an Oshkosh crash truck and a Ford quick-response vehicle. Didn't get the model years or specs, alas. The department is operated by Beaufort County, versus HHIFD. The latter, however, has their headquarters and training facility across the street from the airport fire station. More photos later, including some inside shots of their about-a-year-old station.

Name: (real name preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes

Reminder: Brotherhood Conference on Saturday, May 12

05/10/12 76 W, 1 I - + 8 - 4

This is a reminder that the Wake Forest Fire Department is hosting a Brotherhood Conference on Saturday, May 12. The location is Ravenscroft School at 9409 Falls of Neuse Road, Raleigh. The event time is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The special guest is Lt. Ray McCormack, FDNY. This conference is free for any active firefighters. There are 400 slots max. Download the flyer (PDF), or click to read for contact information:

Fellowship immediately following at Piper's Tavern, 8304 Falls of Neuse Road.

Silver - 05/10/12 - 10:10

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Charleston Building Their Largest Fire Station Ever

05/10/12 140 W, 1 I - + 9 - 3

Check out this monster fire station that Charleston's getting ready to build. New Station 9 at King and Heriot streets. Five bays, with the department's headquarters on the second floor. It replaces an existing station at the same location, though that building (and a much smaller facility) is closed because of mold problems. The $5.5 million, 19,500 square-foot building was designed by Rosenblum Coe Architects. It'll house Engine 9 plus the haz-mat team. It also has space to accommodate one of the four downtown engine companies, which will be needed on a temporary basis, as the city works to retrofit its older stations for earthquake protection (!). See this Post & Courier story for more information. See pictures of Charleston's historic stations, photographed by Legeros in 2007.

Funny you should say this is q 'large' station, whenever I see a video on Youtube from 911rescue I'm always amazed by the size of the stations in Germany.
Take this video for example -> https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=iGBQyEk916s
Paul - 05/10/12 - 10:15

I have always heard that German cities and towns build monster fire stations, but they don't have similar scattering's of medium-sized stations. Everything is consolidated, versus spread across multiple facilities, like in our country.
Legeros - 05/10/12 - 10:26

OK, I figured you'd either know or be able to find an answer :-)
paul - 05/10/12 - 11:08

Looks nice. I've always loved the stations/houses that have bays on multiple sides. Growing up near Fall River, MA I always loved the Fall River Bedford St. HQ (http://massfiretrucks.com/Fall_River_Station_1.jpg) – it had 4 bays on the front and 3-4 along the West facing side.
Trevor James (Email) (Web Site) - 05/10/12 - 12:31

Addtional drawings, etc. here

http://www.fierofirestation.com/awards_2..

This was a very difficult site to work with.
harkey (Email) - 05/10/12 - 14:25

Jeff, do southeastern urban fire stations match those around the country? Or are there trends in our region that are unique to the south or the

Carolina's?

Legeros - 05/10/12 - 14:31

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Post Comment | Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Notify: ☐ Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: ☐ Yes, hide my email address.

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

Historic Savannah Firehouses

05/10/12 335 W, 1 I - + 12 - 7

The Savannah Fire Department dates to 1867, and its career department was formed in 1890. The first fire company was formed over a century earlier in 1759. That was a couple decades after the first fire in 1737. The first officially organized fire department was formed in 1825, and the first independent fire companies were organized in 1845.

The department used hand-powered apparatus until 1866, when all hand engines were converted to steam power. Motor appratus arrived in the 1910s. After the successful operation of an American LaFrance combination chemical hose wagon, eleven more were purchased in 1911. Savannah became the first fully mechanized fire department in the United States.

Three engine houses from the late 19th and early 20th century are still standing in the city. Other historic fire stations include two from the 1930s and two from the 1940s. One of each is active, notably the monster Headquarters Fire Station on Oglethrope Avenue. Also at that location resides Big Duke, the alarm bell and tower that previously sat in front of the police station.

- 604 Barnard St. – Built 1886 - Closed 1952 – Sta 4
- 2202 Barnard St. – Built 1900 – Closed 1982 – Sta 6
- 801 E. Gwinnett St. – Built 1909 - Closed 1999 – Sta 7
- 2102 Ott St. - Built 1936 - Closed 1955 - Sta 8
- 121 E. Oglethorpe Ave. - Built 1937 - Sta 3/ Big Duke
- 1943 Capital St. - Built 1945 – Closed 2008 - Sta 9
- 6 West Henry St. - Built 1946 - Closing 2012? - Sta 5
- 230 East Lathrop Ave. - 1952 – Closed 1999 - Sta 4
- 2824 Bee Rd. - Built 1955 - Sta 8
- 535 East 63rd Street - Built 1959 - Sta 1
- 7 Martin Luther King Blvd. - Built 1970 - Closed 1999 - Sta 2

See photos of the stations, shot this week on our vacation. Criteria was (a.) age 50 years or older or (b.) no longer serving as a fire station, built any year. Or read more information.

Sources:

- Savannah Fire Department history (short)

- Savannah Fire Department history, via IAFF Local 574 (Word document, long)
- Savannah Fire Department records, via City of Savannah Research Library & Municipal Archives (PDF)

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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

Raleigh Fire Museum Open This Saturday, May 11

05/11/12 125 W, 2 I - + 10 - 5

Don't forget that the Raleigh Fire Museum is open this Saturday, May 11, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The museum is open on the second Saturday of each month, and is located in a classroom trailer at the Keeter Training Center at 105 Keeter Center Drive. Parking and restrooms are available. Admission is free. Learn more about the museum, and the group that operates it, at www.raleighfiremuseum.org.

IMG_3519

2011-06-14-rfd-museum-29-mjl

Please note that the Raleigh Fire Department's collection of antique fire apparatus is housed at a separate location, at Fire Station 28 at 3500 Forestville Road in northeast Raleigh. The collection includes a 1905 steamer, a 1926 American LaFrance pumper, a 1950 Mack pumper, and a 1982 Mack pumper. Visitors are welcome.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Notify: ☐ Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Boeing Fire Department in North Charleston

05/11/12 111 W, 2 I - + 9 - 6

Back from vacation but still processing photos and observations from our trip to Savannah by way of Charleston. Heard there's a new airport fire department in North Charleston, serving the Boeing plant that opened last year. Google finds a couple apparatus delivery photos. Top photo is a 2011 Oshkosh Striker 3000, from this E-Vehicle News story. See larger photo on that page. Bottom is a 2011? Ford F-550/American LaFrance mini-pumper slash light rescue, from this ALF page. Perhaps readers can add details about BFD as well as main airport fire department in North Charleston.

From a reader: The USAF provides fire protection for both the military and civilian sides of the airport. Since they fly C-5 Galaxy cargo planes from there, the have an impressive fleet. They maintain a minimum of four large ARFF rigs at all times, which you don't see much any more.
Legeros - 05/11/12 - 20:06

Did you happen to hit up the Lafrance Fire Museum while in Charleston? Its a really cool place!
McK - 05/13/12 - 12:43

Agreed, it is a nifty place. I've been there a couple times a couple years ago, see pics: http://www.flickr.com/photos/legeros/set..

On this trip, I had to balance "wife time" with "fire stuff."

Legeros - 05/13/12 - 12:45

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Hide email: ☐ Yes, hide my email address.

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Historic Urban Firehouses of the South

05/11/12 116 W - + 7 - 3

Slowly but surely we're amassing a collection of current photos of historic urban firehouses in the South. As posted to the Mike Legeros Flickr site, you can tour these cities:

- Baltimore
- Charleston
- District of Columbia
- Richmond
- Savannah

There's also an omnibus of North Carolina stations, which mixes urban, suburban, and rural. For specific cities, see this history page and these articles therein:

- Asheville
- Charlotte
- Durham
- Fayetteville
- Goldsboro
- Greensboro
- High Point
- Kinston
- New Bern
- Raleigh
- Rocky Mount and Wilson
- Wilmington
- Winston-Salem

Memo to self, create individual Flickr sets for the above North Carolina cities. Add links between each new set and its corresponding history page. Oy, photo management never ends.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Evening Reading - May 11, 2012

05/11/12 531 W - + 9 - 2

Good evening Raleigh. Summer appears to be here! Days are getting longer, days are getting hotter. Good time for summer projects and summer vacations. Regarding the former, Yours Truly is compiling a list of all Wake County fire chiefs past and present. Started as question, which chiefs have been the longest-serving? That led to a longer list, which is a few departments shy of being completed. Names plus start and stop years, where possible. Watch this space.

- A parade is coming and you're invited! - FireNews.net posting about the Raleigh Fire Department centennial celebration on Saturday, June 16. An all-day celebration is planned downtown. The festivities start with a parade on Fayetteville Street. Your department is requested to send modern or antique apparatus. You can also participate in the apparatus muster and the firefighter challenges. Learn more at www.RFD100.com.

- Fairview hiring for Fire Chief - The Fairview Fire Department in Apex is hiring to fill a full-time Fire Chief position. Applications accepted through June 1. See this PDF document for more information, including an application. Congratulations again to outgoing Chief Ed Brinson, who's continuing the family name in the North Carolina State Fireman's Association as Assistant Director.

- FireNews and Bartosz cover triple-truck crash on I-95 - FireNews.net posting about Wednesday's fatal, fiery truck crash on I-95 in Rocky Mount. The city department was assisted by Red Oak FD, Coopers FD, West Mount FD, and Battleboro FD. Plus a crash truck from the airport. (Full run card, anyone?) Photographer Bob Bartosz contributed some 20 photos.

- Speaking of fire photographers... - Mark your calendar for Friday, August 10. That's the date that a Fire Photography Panel will be held at the South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo in Raleigh. The 90-minute workshop is scheduled from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. The moderator is FireNews.net Editor Jeff Harkey. The participants include myself. More on that one, later.

- Speaking of the Fire Expo - After you've learned about fire photography, plan to attend my workshop at 3:15 p.m. on the same day. Historian Mike Legeros will present a Centennial History of the Raleigh Fire Department. The 90-minute session will include a contextual history of the fire service in North Carolina as well. And probably a lot of neat old photos.

- Salary freezes often mean double duty for area firefighters - *Star-News* story about Wilmington firefighters making ends meet, and as the city faces an estimated $4.5 million budget hole.

- Volunteer cartographer sets Google Map record straight on Triangle - *News & Observe*r story from Sunday about a WakeMed police officer whose a citizen cartographer off-duty. Pretty neat.

- 14 tips for raising the bar on memo writing - Modern Meeting Standing posting on writing better. Learn from the thing, okay? You'll become a better texter, tweeter, and e-mail writer. Might even help some folks with blogging!

- Vacation photos from Charleston and Savannah - Mr. Blogger is about finished with his post-vacation post-processing. Posted so far are shots from the Charleston Naval Yard, Savannah Historic Firehouses, and Savannah Temporary Firehouses (!). Pending is the Hilton Head Island Airport Fire Department and general shots from around Savannah.

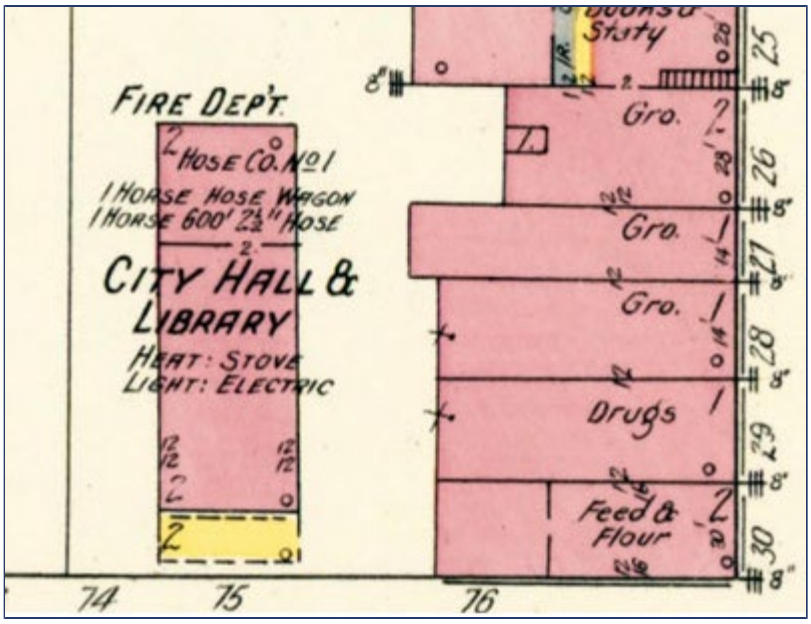
Name: (real name

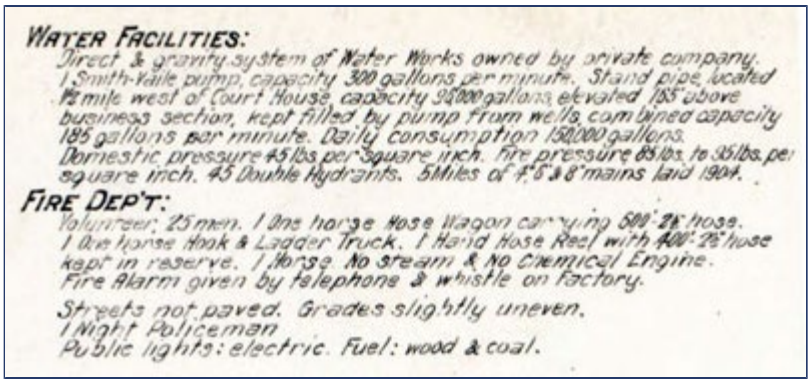
Remember personal info?

Morganton City Hall and Fire Station, 1910

05/12/12 95 W, 3 I - + 11 - 4

Found for sale on eBay is this postcard of the Morganton City Hall building, which included a fire station in the rear. Never seen this photo before! Sanborn Maps from April 1910 show the structure located on King Street, just west of West Union Street. The volunteer fire department of 25 men operated a horse hose wagon and a horse hook and ladder truck. The town had 45 hydrants. The population was 3500. Don't know when the building was built, or when it was demolished. View the Sanborn Maps. Click to enlarge:





WATER FACILITIES:
Direct & gravity system of Water Works owned by private company. 1 Smith-Vaile pump, capacity 300 gallons per minute. Stand pipe located ¾ mile west of Court House, capacity 95000 gallons, elevated 185' above business section, kept filled by pump from wells, combined capacity 185 gallons per minute. Daily consumption 150000 gallons. Domestic pressure 45 lbs. per Square inch. Fire pressure 85 lbs. to 95 lbs. per square inch. 45 Double Hydrants. 5 Miles of 4", 6" & 8" mains laid 1904.

FIRE DEP'T:
Volunteer: 25 men. 1 One horse Hose Wagon carrying 500' 2½" hose. 1 One horse Hook & Ladder Truck. 1 Hand Hose Reel with 400' 2½" hose kept in reserve. 1 Horse, No steam & No Chemical Engine. Fire Alarm given by telephone & whistle on factory.

Streets not paved. Grades slightly uneven.
1 Night Policeman
Public lights: electric. Fuel: wood & coal.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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

Post Comment | Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Notify: ☐ Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: ☐ Yes, hide my email address.

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

Centennial Celebration Invitation From Fire Chief John McGrath

05/12/12 83 W, 1 I - + 8 - 6

Fire Chief John McGrath extends his invitation to the Raleigh Fire Department Centennial Celebration in downtown Raleigh on Saturday, June 16, in this short video clip. The all-day event begins at 10:00 a.m. and will feature a fire truck parade, firefighter competitions, antique apparatus pumping demonstrations, a Kidde Kid's Zone, and a huge birthday cake. Learn more at **www.RFD100.com**, including registration information for your apparatus for firefighter team. Click to watch the video:

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Anson County C-130 Crash, April 29, 1992

05/13/12 176 W - + 9 - 4

My deadliest disasters database includes military aviation accidents with fatalities numbering five or greater. A reader informs of an incident not listed. Nine crew members aboard a C-130 transport plane were killed when their craft crashed into Blewett Falls Lake in Anson County on April 29, 1992. The plane was based at Pope Air Force Base, about 40 miles east of the crash site. The incident ties for ninth deadliest military plane crash in the state's history. The highest fatality count was an Army transport crash on September 20, 1943, at Laurinburg-Maxton Army Air Base. The crash killed all 25 aboard, and was also the first fatal crash at the base. Memo to self: updated my database with the Anson County incident.

- Laurinburg-Maxton AAB - Sept. 20, 1943 - 25
- Pope AFB - Mar. 23 1994 - 23 killed, 100 injured
- Camp Lejeune Onslow - Jun. 23, 1967 - 22
- Laurinburg-Maxton AAB - Jun. 7, 1943 - 20
- Gingercake Mountain - May 17, 1943 - 18
- Camp Lejeune - May 10, 1996 - 14
- Camp Mackall - Oct. 30, 1943 -14
- Greenknob Mountain - Jun. 13, 1944 - 10
- Cherry Point MCAS - Oct. 16, 1975 - 9
- Blewett Falls Lake - Apr 29, 1992 - 9

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Temporary Fire Stations

05/13/12 165 W, 2 I - + 10 - 7

Here's Station 12 on Ogeechee Road in Savannah, one of three temporary stations operating on the far west and south sides of the city. We photographed all three while visiting the historic city last week. See those photos. (Yeah, you're pretty much crazy person if spend your vacation cruising the perimeter of a place like Savannah, instead of spending every last moment downtown. We don't even need Mrs. Blogger to comment on that one...)

Locally, we've seen a number of temporary fire stations around Raleigh and Wake County. In the Capital City, Engine 8 occupied a rented house on Method Road from 1960 to 1963. In Holly Springs, the municipal fire department's early locations included a warehouse circa 1995. Their Station 2 is currently operating in a trailer on Avent Ferry Road, while their new building is completed on the same site. What other temporary stations have served or are serving around here/this region?

Drawing of Holly Springs Station 2

05/13/12 38 W, 1 I - + 13 - 10

Found on the fire department's stations page, here's a drawing of Holly Springs Station 2, which is under construction on Avent Ferry Road. See earlier blog post. See construction photos from Lee Wilson.

I hate to knit-pick but the building elevation drawings aren't drawn correctly. The front and rear elevations are the same drawing just one is inverted left to right. The entrance portico, which I would assume is only on the front of the building is shown on both front and rear elevations but is not shown on left elevation. If I paid for these drawing I would be a bit ticked off!

stretch - 05/13/12 - 18:36

Lesson in life #1: Be sure of the details and double check things before speaking on them. (Look at the side elevations and the entrance roofs of the front and rear.)

Josh (Email) - 05/14/12 - 00:19

Josh,

Portico- A porch held up by columns in front of a doorway.

Canopy Roof- A roof, often over a balcony or porch, that is suggestive of the curvature of a suspended cloth canopy. (Architects terminology)

There are two canopy roofs over the apparatus bay doors one front and one rear. The front and rear Elevation drawings show a portico on the front and rear however the side elevation drawings only show a portico at the front.

Stretch - 05/14/12 - 05:06

The elevations appear to be correct. The portico is not shown in Side Elevation (Side B) (2/A2.1)because the face of the portico stops almost in line with the bays. Side Elevation 3/A2.1 (Side D)shows the front portico roof just slightly in front of the apparatus bay roof. Omitting the small portion of roof that sticks from the the Side B elevation is a common drafting practice, as that roof actually happens on the other building is not important to the Side B elevation.

Also, while the front and rear elevations appear to be similar, there are several big differences. The Side A entry roof is much taller the the

rear, with different detailing, and the door has a glass sidelight. Also notice how the front entrance is perpendicular the the roof ridge while the rear is parallel with it. The overall form of the front and rear apparatus bay are the same. That seems to make sense because it is likely one large drive through bay space. The canopies over the front and rear bay are different sizes.
A Different Josh - 05/14/12 - 21:49

I dont care about the nit picking or whatever. Congrats to Holly Springs. As a Engineer I think the drawings look good. When I say Engineer its my position on the fire department.
911 - 05/15/12 - 08:59

Hey I was just messing with you, but anyways just glad to see a different Josh agrees. Rode by the station the other day and it looks good, a lot better than the barn & construction office. When is the expected completion date?
Josh (Email) - 05/15/12 - 11:34

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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Vintage Benson Beauties

05/14/12 116 W, 2 I - + 8 - 8

As photographed by Lee Wilson at Saturday's open house at the Benson Fire Department. Top is a 1950 Ford/Howe. Love the lines on that one and the overhead ladder rack. (Wake Forest had a similar style rig in that era.) Bottom is an early 1900s horse-drawn, gas-powered pumper. That one was recently returned to the fire department and has been undergoing restoration. See prior posting from 2010. The engine dates to 1907, though that might be an approximate year. Here's a history page of mine with a photo of the engine operating circa 1907. Our readers to the south can perhaps add more information. See more photos from the Open House.

Lee Wilson photos

The Tripp Lite beacon on the Benson pumper is unique. I have not seen but a small number around these parts. Most from that era had the mechanical siren-light combinations.

DJ - 05/14/12 - 09:45

Wake County Recognizes EMS Week

05/14/12 217 W - + 7 - 9

This week is Wake County EMS week. Read press release. There are a couple events planned, both public and private:

- EMS Healthy Living Open House at Station 1 - Monday, May 14 - 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
  Residents are invited to stop by for blood pressure screenings, fresh fruit, tours of ambulances and to meet Pete the Paramedic Panda. Attendees can also learn about automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and hands-only CPR techniques. At 10:00 a.m., Wake County EMS will host a news conference to launch a new initiative with local businesses aimed at improving cardiac arrest survival rates.

- Cardiac Arrest Saves Ceremony at Fletcher Opera Theater - Wednesday, May 16 - 7:00 p.m.
  The County's EMS System will celebrate the 69 survivors of cardiac arrest in 2011. No other community in the U.S. benefits from a higher pre-hospital cardiac arrest survival rate.

- Wake County EMS System Reunion at the Wake County Conference Center - Thursday, May 17 - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
  Past members of the EMS departments and rescue squads are invited to a reunion event. Starts with a meet and greet at 10:00 a.m., barbecue lunch at 11:00 a.m., and historical fun from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Visit this web site for more information, including an RSVP form.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Wake County Firefighters Association Quarterly Meeting, Meal - Tuesday, May 15

05/14/12 102 W - + 12 - 5

From the Wake County Firefighters Association: The next quarterly supper / meeting will be held this Tuesday, 5/15/2012, at Wake Forest Fire Department Station 1, 420 East Elm Ave. The meal will be served around 6:30p with the meeting to follow around 7p. There will be a speaker from the new retirement system that the State Fireman's Association has put together. We will also be announcing the scholarship awards. Please feel free to bring any new apparatus that you have recently received so we may all take a look. We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

Post Comment | Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Notify: ☐ Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: ☐ Yes, hide my email address.

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

Citizen Video of Charlotte Townhouse Fire

05/15/12 56 W - + 13 - 5

Found via random YouTube search, here's some citizen video of a Charlotte townhouse fire on April 20, 2012. Only about 80 seconds of footage. Some citizen commentary. Sound of evacuation tones about a minute in. Google searching finds these WSCO and WBTV stories. Two alarms on Duke Lancaster Drive. Five families displaced.

Thats not Evac horn that's just first due calling for his water From the hydrant man
Salty (Email) - 05/15/12 - 10:32

So thats what the the blasts of the horns mean. I will know next time I hear em.
911 - 05/15/12 - 22:15

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Old Wilson, Williamston Engines

05/16/12 45 W, 2 I - + 8 - 12

Photographer Lee Wilson found these two trucks in Johnston County last week. Top is an American LaFrance 700 Series in Clayton, former Wilson Engine 2. Bottom is a 1948 Mack outside Smithfield that once served Williamston. See more photos.

Lee Wilson photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Raleigh's Old Engine 1 Returns Home

05/16/12 142 W, 2 I - + 14 - 6

The Raleigh Fire Museum last week acquired a 1961 American LaFrance 900 Series pumper that originally served the Raleigh Fire Department. It was purchased with donations from active, retired, and former members. The engine served the city from 1961 until 1982, and was sold to the Stem Fire Department in Granville County in what we believe was 1986. It was later sold to a private owner.

The truck's in good condition and the museum will continue to raise money for maintenance and, hopefully, restoration. See photos of the engine's journey from Jan Chamblee and others, as well as photos from Lee Wilson. To learn about the Raleigh Fire Museum or donate money, see www.raleighfiremuseum.org. The engine will be participating in the Saturday, June 16 centennial celebration in downtown Raleigh. Hope to see you there!

Lee Wilson photo

Dean Narron photo

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the truck looks nice. i hope they repaint it Raleigh red, and re letter it for RFD. Since it is owned by the historical museum and not the FD, will it be housed with the antique apparatus at 28 or is it going to be housed elsewhere.

Rolesville's New Engine 151

05/16/12 30 W, 1 I - + 10 - 6

Delivered last week, a 2012 Pierce Saber. More photos forthcoming from Lee Wilson. We'll get some specs for the thing, too. Click to enlarge:

Lee Wilson photo

Good looking rig Rolesville. Congrats.
911 - 05/16/12 - 23:25

Is this their first Pierce?
And agreed 911…It's a good looking truck.
Congrats Rolesville.
Buckwheat - 05/17/12 - 11:35

And Wake Co wants to get away from Pierce,,,what a shame
Enginedriver - 05/17/12 - 19:17

Lee what was it's first call?
911 - 05/17/12 - 19:40

Enginedriver…has that been decided on?
I wonder why? Im not being a smarty pants but I havent heard that one.
Seems like they are better now than the Contenders from previous years.
Buckwheat - 05/17/12 - 21:02

The Wake Co. Apparatus Committee develops specifications and reviews the submitted bids. Pierce meets the current spec. at the lowest bid. No plans to change unless the spec is re-bid and someone else comes in lower.
A.C. Rich - 05/17/12 - 23:07

I don't know 911.
lee - 05/17/12 - 23:55

Historic Firehouses of Raleigh

05/16/12 230 W, 1 I - + 13 - 5

Let's apply the travel treatment to our own town, shall we? Here are the historic and former fire department buildings in Raleigh. The oldest dates to the volunteer years, with the Capital Hose House built in 1887. Then leap to the 20th Century, with a number of former firehouses, including the rear of what was once called Memorial Auditorium. The oldest fire department building still in service is the old alarm house behind in Station 1. **See the photos by Legeros**, all of which were taken a couple years ago. Will do a fresh photo tour one of these months! Read more history about these buildings.

- Sta 1 - 220 S. Dawson Street - Built 1953
- Sta 3 - 13 S. East Street - Built 1951
- Sta 5 - 300 Oberlin Road - Built 1961
- Sta 6 - 2601 Fairview Road - Built 1949
- Sta 7 - 2100 Glascock Street - Built 1959
- Old Alarm House - Behind 220 S. Dawson Street - Built 1942
- Old Capital Hose House - 117 W. Morgan Street - Built 1887 - Closed 1889
- Old Sta 2 - Memorial Auditorium, rear - Built 1932 - Closed 1969
- Old Sta 2 Repair Shop - 263 Pecan Street, rear - Built 1969 - Closed 2004
- Old Sta 4 - 505 Jefferson Street - Built 1926 - Closed 1963
- Old Sta 4 - 2913 Wake Forest Road - Built 1963 - Closed 1993
- Old Sta 6 - 2519 Fairview Road, left half - Opened 1943 - Closed 1948
- Old Sta 8 - 903 Kent Road - Opened 1960 - Closed 1963

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ Textile

Mystery Patient Compartments - Then & Now

05/17/12 46 W, 2 I - + 11 - 7

Pair of patient compartments in a pair of ambulances. One is vintage, one is modern. Can you identify? Marvel at the simplicity (then) and the complexity (now).

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Evening Reading - May 17, 2012

05/17/12 460 W - + 8 - 4

Good evening Raleigh. Great time today at the second annual Wake County EMS System reunion. There's such a rich vein of history in our area, with decades of service by volunteer rescue squads and career EMS agencies (and variations in-between). See photos by Legeros, including a couple sweet rides shown outside the Wake County Commons Building, where the luncheon was held. Enjoy some reading and these stories that caught my eye this week:

- Death of fire dog brings community outpouring - *Midtown Raleigh News* story about Durham Highway Fire Department, and what's happened since the passing of Angus three months ago. Both Lee and Legeros documented his last day on February 23.

- Knightdale paves way for ousted firefighters to return - *Eastern Wake News* story about a new town policy that will allow three firefighters to return to work, who were dismissed due in February due to policies prohibiting employment of spouses or relatives.

- Wake County announces 100 day heart safe AED campaign - Press release about an initiative announced Monday, to help citizens survive cardiac arrests and by increasing the availability of public access Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). Also on this subject, cardiac survivors and the responders who help save them were recognized Wednesday night at the annual ceremony at Fletcher Hall. Read the *N&O* story or see photos from Lee Wilson.

- Who's in that ambulance? - WTVD investigative report and a curiously timed one at that, what with EMS week starting next week. They reviewed five year's worth of disciplinary records for emergency medical providers statewide. Can't tell the reason behind this one, beyond the obviously lower-hanging editorial fruit. Local EMS blogger 9-Echo-1 has already weighed in with his response.

- Raleigh Fire Department producing centennial history book - Press release about an all-new history book that's in production. Hardcover, full-color, 260 pages. Price is $60. Can be pre-ordered online, or via forms available at www.RFD100.com. Some historian guy is helping at the helm.

- What a croc - Actually, 'twas an alligator (in Carteret County!) that made the news in the widely-reported WITN story. The video clip has played everywhere, and should be tagged "Don't Try This at Home." Alligator 1, Scientist 0.

- What the investigation into Facebook comments by a firefighter looks like - Statter911 story from earlier this week, about the Miami-Dade Fire Department's demotion of a captain due to comments posted on the popular site. What's unique about this story is the 33-page investigative report, which accompanies the story. It's a blow-by-blow account that turns "yet another social media story" into a cautionary tale of considerable magnitude. You might find yourself rethinking your online conduct after this one.

Regarding the WTVD story, here's a meta-question about my calling attention to same: Is it better to whisper and try to forget that such a story was broadcast? Or just the opposite, in talk openly and let everyone look at the thing and form their own opinions and, hopefully, expose the flaws therein? Obviously I'm doing the latter. Am I wrong in doing same?

Legeros - 05/18/12 - 08:00

Nobody's suggesting that we whisper about nonsense like this. Mom always told me to ignore things that don't amount to a hill of beans, and this story surely did not. But ranting about it on world-wide media makes it seem far more significant or important than it is. Remember, the news guys don't care if you LIKE it or DISLIKE it – they just care that you watched it. Many also think that the number "hits" on a web site or "comments" on a news story are a measure of success. Do we really want to help them inflate their numbers?

Not me!

Skip K - 05/18/12 - 09:31

Thanks for your perspective, Skip. That's a good point about the motivators behind ratings-based journalism. Conceptually, news exists (or was created) to add social value. But to sustain the mechanisms required to find and report news, money/ratings/likes are required. And invariably, the tail ends up wagging the dog at times.

But there's also the meta-issue. If this story is nonsense and isn't worth anyone's attention, then why are so many EMS people reacting so strongly, and talking so passionately about it? Does that in turn transform a non-story (miniscule percentages in employment data) in a real story (reactions of employees to [something])?

Not sure what the "something" is. The story doesn't even target any Triangle-based EMS providers. But it's making medics (and others) hot. As someone wise once said, when something makes us mad, it's also telling us something about ourselves.

One more thought about press and emergency services. It would take a seriously scandalous scandal to stop people from 911 when they have an emergency. No one's call volume dropped after that story aired, that's for sure!

Legeros - 05/19/12 - 09:18

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

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Letter to the Editor / Memo From Fire Chief, Circa 1958

05/17/12 1181 W - + 12 - 6

Found in my files. These date to around 1958, based on the citations regarding a second aerial ladder (delivered 1958) and construction of Station 7 (opened 1959).

To the Editor:

Yesterday I spent a most enjoyable and enlightening hour and a half in the Raleigh Fire Station on Dawson Street.

Like too many of our Raleigh Citizens, I have always subconsciously taken for granted that if a fire were occur in my home, I would pick up the telephone, call the fire station, and have the fire put out. It never occurred to me stop and think what operations might be behind this very prompt and efficient service.

Also like many citizens, I had never seen a fire engine except as it flashed past, hurrying to answer a fellow citizen's distress call. Those big gleaming, clean-as-a-pin engines sat there, ready to go into operation at a second's notice. When I saw them, I knew exactly how my young son feels when he is around a fire engine.

Many of us, I feel sure, don't know that there is a definite science in the art of fighting fires. I peered with awe at the banks of complicated dials, knobs and fixtures that each fireman must know how to operate in order to extinguish a fire. I learned that these engines carry their own supply water which can be used to instantly start fighting the fire while the other hose lines are being attached to the hydrant.

Do you know that from the instant the first "licks" hit the alarm bell until the firemen are on the truck and ready to go into action takes only 18 seconds. Sounds incredible but that's true. Our fireman are on duty around the clock, seven days a week. They sleep in the station house with an ear open for that first sound of an alarm bell, ready to leap into action--to protect our lives and property.

Except to answer a fire call, these men never leave the station house while on duty. They have a kitchen and sleeping quarters right in the station house. When it is said that they are on duty 24 hours a day, it means just that. Meal time, coffee break time, sleeping time-- all subject to interruption at any time, day or night, for the citizens of Raleigh.

The firemen of Raleigh have a proud tradition. Their salaries are small, their glory minor, but their service int he face of constant danger is tremendous.

Our Fire Chief, Jack Keeter, is to be highly commended for his wonderful organization of our fire department and for the services that he and his men render the people of Raleigh. I don't know how others feel, but as for me, I'll never again "take for granted" such important service.

(Mrs.) Becki Brenner, Raleigh

Municipal Memo

By Jack B. Keeter, Raleigh Fire Chief

We have, in my opinion, as fine a fire department as there is in the state of North Carolina, or anywhere else. It is our constant aim and effort to give the citizens of Raleigh first class, efficient fire protection.

The Fire Department is composed of 123 personnel. Because of the 24-hour shift system, there are approximately 60 persons on duty all times. There are six fire stations in use and it is expected that a seventh will be constructed within approximately a year. There are 20 pieces of firefighting apparatus.

[Those apparatus being seven engines, two aerial ladders, one service ladder truck, two rescue trucks, one auxiliary truck, and probably two reserve engines. Maybe three. Wonder if he was counting chief's car or the shop truck or...]

The fine quality of the personnel, a good training program and, the finest equipment that money can buy are what makes this fire departmcnt a good one.

Fire Protection

The old adage, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," is applicable to fire protection service as it is to anything. The fire department has a fire prevention bureau which inspects primarily buildings and grounds in the central fire district and outlying, built-up commercial areas.

When conditions are found which are dangerous from a fire standpoint, a report is made and the occupant is made aware of the condition and the method of correction.

Another prevention service which was very recently begun which is directly primarily toward fire prevention in dwellings. The new type fire inspection program is a result of a considerable amount of study in the fire department and its purpose is to thoroughly familiarize the citizens of Raleigh with the types of equipment, personnel, and function of the fire department.

In this program the equipment goes out into the territory in which it serves. The truck is equipped with a radio and every two-man inspection team is equipped with a Handi-Talky. This method is used so the truck is never out of service for fire calls. The aim of this inspect program is to work with each citizen to helping him understand the fire department and to pass on to him knowledge of fire prevention, such as the proper size fuses, where and when to store flammable liquids, furnace inspection, etc.

In addition, the citizen is acquainted with the methods used to [missing text].

The Rescue Squad

The idea of the Rescue Squad was instigated a few years ago when a truck driver was penned under a truck on Hillsboro Street and criticism came to the fire and police departments because this man could not be extracted for some time.

Criticism also came concerning one particular drowning when a man stayed in the Neuse River several days without anyone making a concentrated effort to recover his body.

The Rescue Squad was organized by: 1) getting a charter from the State of North Carolina, (2) a group of firemen and civilians getting together and drawing up rules and regulations showing how it would be operated and to what extent it would be able to render service to those in need.

After the organization the rescue squad personnel (composed firemen and civilian volunteers) took a Red Cross First Aid course to prepare them for rendering this service.

Money was secured from the city and the Civil Defense to buy one truck, two boats and two motors. Then $2,500 was secured from the county for another truck and some additional equipment. Several citizens contributed money and equipment to the Rescue Squad. The squad stands ready at all times to serve anyone in Raleigh or Wake County in any emcrgency that might require first aid. The equipment is designed for rescue, first aid and drownings but not for extreme emergencies and should not be competilion for the ambulance services.

Two Aerial Ladder Trucks

In 1917 the City of Raleigh purchased a 75' aerial ladder truck which has been in operation in the city ever since. Due to the growth of the city, increased population, additional schools and hospitals, and all types of buildings where there is a considerable number of people, it has become necessary to have more than one aerial truck.

Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

Wake County Fire Chiefs Past and Present - Version 1

05/18/12 326 W - + 14 - 5

For your Friday enjoyment, here's a project that I've been idly playing with. Wake County fire chiefs past and present. If my math is correct, same contains 244 unique names from 36 departments and dating to 1870. Still incomplete for a few departments, alas. Apex, Cary, Fairgrounds, Falls, Holly Springs Rural, Morrisville, Rolesville, ~~Six Forks~~, Wake Forest #2, Wake Forest Rural, Wendell, Western Boulevard, Yrac, and Zebulon. But top people are researching the gaps. Thanks for everyone's help so far, and going forward.

View the list of Wake County Fire Chiefs (PDF)

The list is presently posted to this blog. We'll place it in a better location on legeros.com later. Readers are entirely invited to check my work. Corrects are encouraged! Now, let's slice and dice and the data and bit...

Longest Serving

- W. Lee Rowland, Fuquay-Varina, 1925-1963 - 38 years
- George Gupton, Knightdale/Eastern Wake, 1978-2012 - 34*
- Sidney Perry, Zebulon, 1980-present - 32
- Billy Wayne Perry, Zebulon Rural, 1954-1986 - 32
- Willie Hopkins, Zebulon, 1946-1975 - 29
- Phil Mitchell, Garner, 1982-2010 - 28
- Jimmy Thompson, RDU, 1986-present - 26
- Tom Vaughn, Wendell, 1988-present - 24
- L. D. Warner, Swift Creek, 1965-1987 - 22
- Cecil Parker, Holly Springs, 1992-2012 - 20
- Frank Woods, Hopkins, 1992-present - 20
- Albert Perry, Wake Forest, 1958-1978 - 20

Died in Office

- Lewis Hicks, Raleigh, 1923
- Alvin Lloyd, Raleigh, 1955
- Clarence Puryear, Raleigh, 1974
- Terry Edmundson, RDU, 1985
- Lewis Bartholomew, Six Forks, 1978
- Jimmy Keith, Wake Forest, 2004
- Others?

Common Last Name**

- Perry - 7
- Keith - 5
- Bailey - 4
- Jones - 4
- Ray - 4
- Harris - 3
- Johnson - 3

Future Computations

Would be interesting to calculate total service for folks who served as chief for two or departments. And to calculate who also served in other departments, and outside Wake County. That list would be pretty honkin' huge.

*In 2003, Knightdale FD changed their name to Eastern Wake FD.

**Check my math on those counts. And we'll be adding more names to the master list, of course.

Mickey Denning was chief at Yrac in January 1979. That's when I started. Sam Matthews was chief when I left in 1986 or so.
DJ - 05/18/12 - 08:32

Chief Jimmy Keith of Wake Forest Fire died while in office, 2004.
The Real JG - 05/18/12 - 13:07

A correction for Wake Forest – should read "Albert Perry"
A.C. Rich - 05/20/12 - 12:16

Thanks JG and AC. Not sure who "Albert Woods" was! Must be mysterious kin to FW…
Legeros - 05/20/12 - 12:19

Danny Rogers was chief at YRAC for a term so was TIm Murphy. Not sure of the dates.
Kermit - 05/20/12 - 19:43

Version 2 posted, and adds an index!
Legeros - 05/26/12 - 09:30

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

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Camp Celebrate Apparatus

05/19/12 67 W, 1 I - + 10 - 5

Quite a collection of apparatus participated in yesterday's Camp Celebrate procession from Triangle Town Center in Raleigh. Top to bottom, left to right are Chapel Hill, New Hanover County (!), Apex, Roxboro, Stony Hill, and Rocky Mount. Photos by Lee Wilson. **See more photos from Lee**. Maybe someone can post the complete roster. Big thanks to everyone who participated and helped.

Lee Wilson photos

Carolina Trace Vol Fire Pierce is one good looking truck.
I would love to know the specs for that engine.
Anybody know what they are?
Buckwheat - 05/22/12 - 19:57

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment:

/ Textile

Old Engine at Durham Junkyard

05/20/12 46 W, 3 I - + 6 - 6

Reader Paul Attryde found this Ford/American LaFrance pumper while rooting around a junkyard on Wrenn Road in Durham. Observe the interesting warning lights on the roof. Beacon plus two strobes (?). Can anyone identify? Click to enlarge:

Paul Attryde photos

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment:

/ Textile

Expected the (Un)Expected

05/21/12 95 W - + 9 - 1

Dave Statter surfaced this video last week of a flaming van on a San Jose freeway that started rolling just after the engine arrived. Like the reader comment suggesting a chock-throwing device on the roof of the pumper. There's your million-dollar idea right there. Inventors, start your engines. It's worth noting that Statter911 has become a superb site for viewing fire videos. Dave has a knack for curating compelling content, and his readers provide equally rich entertaining and education in their comments. What vehicle fire-that-surprised-you stories can you share?

Vehicle fire at the Food Lion on New Bern (@Trawick). It was leaking gas and every time we knocked it down, it would re-ignite. One of us had the bright idea to use the dry chem extinguisher to lay a blanket over the puddled gas. Older ff (name withheld to protect the innocent?) was crouched down applying the dry chem when the tires started blowing. Then, we saw the extinguisher rolling across the parking lot and the ff standing on the sidewalk in front of Food Lion. Happy Ending though, the tires blowing leveled the van out and stopped the flow of gas onto the ground and which point the fire was quickly extinguished.

Joel Rieves (Email) (Web Site) - 05/21/12 - 08:19

Commercial strucure fire over on Overlook Rd off of Gresham Lake Rd at an auto repair shop. Myself, two other Falls FF and two Raleigh FF went in on the first or second line. There were two cars actually burning inside. We fought fire until our bottles started running out and did not even put a dent in the fire. When in later to find that someone had the bright idea to use dry chem extinguishers as well. We also realized what that we had just walked under two cars on jacks as well.

Marcus - 05/21/12 - 12:29

I was on the line when the dry chem extinguisher was used at that fire. The extinguisher was pulled off a hanger inside the building by an undisclosed New Hope Captain. I was also under the car that sat on a lift with another car under it. We didn't know the car was there till we hit our heads on it. Surprise!! The fire was actually contained to only one car. Fortunately that night the fire didn't light up the oxy/acetylene set or the propane forklift sitting right in front of the car. Could have ended very differently. What was deceiving to me that night was the entire end wall was mirrored. Kept trying to put that fire out too. Couldn't figure out why we weren't making a dent in it.

Doppler - 05/27/12 - 01:12

Name: (real name | Remember personal info?

Morning Reading List?

05/21/12 166 W - + 6 - 8

Been a while since we asked this question. What's your morning reading list look like, for fire and emergency services web sites? These days, my daily fare consists of these four:

- Lee Wilson's photos on Flickr
- FireNews.net
- Statter911
- Firegeezer

Plus local news media, looking for stories on same: WRAL, WTVD, News14, *News & Observer*. Less frequently visit Firehouse, the Firehouse forums, FireCritic, and smaller local news sites like *Cary News*, *Eastern Wake News*, *Midtown Raleigh News*, and the *Wake Weekly*. The latter local rags get hit a couple times a week, usually midweek.

Also watch Facebook for posted links that catch my eye, including the frequent link posts from both FireNews.net and HPFirefighter.com.The latter, which started as an unofficial High Point Fire Department site, has also started aggregating fire news in recent months. Also have Google alerts which send daily e-mail with links to newly posted (or newly indexed) web pages that mention "Raleigh Fire Department."

Yours?

My daily stuff is not necessarily EMS/fire related. However, I do have a daily, every few days, and weekly routine…

Daily- WRAL, WTSB, CNN, Firegeezer, Military.com, various stuff from Facebook posts, updates from my Reading List on the 9-ECHO-1 site.

Every few days- News and Observer, various Flickr sites, Jems, EMS1.com, FireRescue1.com

Every week or so- Dustoff.org, Army Times.

Blogs that I hit regularly- Other than Firegeezer, they include Legeros Fire Blog, Day In The Life Of An Ambulance Driver, Too Old To Work Too Young To Retire, The Happy Medic, Burned Out Medic, Dr. Wes, Rogue Medic, Prehospital 12-Lead, The EMTSpot, and a few others.

DJ - 05/21/12 - 12:34

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Ten-Digit Misdials Continue to Plague Raleigh/Wake ECC

05/21/12 129 W - + 7 - 7

Press release. Ten-digit dialing continues to cause significant problems for the Raleigh-Wake Emergency Communications Center. Instead of dialing the area code 919, callers are mistakenly dialing 9-1-1 and hanging up. Misdials and hang-up calls divert resources away from actual emergencies, as dispatchers must dial back on hang-ups to assure that an emergency is not taking place. If no response is received, a police officer is sent to the source of the call to make certain that no assistance is needed. Ten-digit dialing became mandatory in the area in late March. For the first two weeks of May, the average rose to 181, more than six times [!] the normal amount for days prior to the area code overlay. Read entire press release.

Mike – thanks, as always, for posting. I want to remind readers that the numbers published are just for those calls we DISPATCHED and not for the total load that this change has placed upon us. All told, we have doubled the amount of 9-1-1 landline calls we get from homes and businesses. So, please try to remember that fact when dealing with our telecommunicators. So many of our stats have gone completely through the roof that it's almost impossible to convey the burden created. Our ring to answer rate has slipped, and so obviously will the time it takes to answer a radio call. We are working the public education aspect in many directions, but as the numbers show, there has yet to be a positive impact. Again, if your department does any public education – especially with businesses or seniors – please make this a part of your program.

RWECC - 05/24/12 - 10:04

Does anyone know how the call volume now compares with the anticipated volume before the change-over? I mean, it's not like no-one saw this coming, so a larger number of mis-dials should have been expected.

Paul - 05/24/12 - 12:32

Paul, emergency servers are pretty good at predicting unexpected situations. I'll wager that this increase is perhaps astronomically above— or longer in duration— than was planned. But it might also be a new cost of doing business, at least in the 919 area code, and perhaps in communities with large populations of people prone of misdialing.

Legeros - 05/24/12 - 13:02

Paul – while we predicated an increase based upon incidents of past misdials from people who historically used 10 digits, it was impossible to anticipate the magnitude of this impact. While we did some pre-cutover pub ed, there are so many variables. For example: Why does Durham have a significantly lesser impact than Raleigh and Cary? We haven't figured that one out yet. Also, even had we predicted such a major increase, we could not have suddenly found trained staff to handle the overload. Double or triple in some categories was within reason. But, we are double or triple that in a variety of areas. And none of our predictions showed the problem getting worse instead of better.

RWECC - 05/24/12 - 18:47

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

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Guilford County Fire Departments, 1981

05/21/12 103 W, 1 I - + 12 - 5

Here's a treat from three decades ago, two pages of station and apparatus photos from the *Guilford County Fire Protective Association Annual Yearbook and Fier Safety Manual: Summer/Fall 1981*. Bought that baby on eBay. **Shown on these two pages** in PDF format are PGFD, AFD, GFD not Greensboro FD, MFD, SFD, the airport FD, BFD, another SFD, FD13, FD14, ORFD, CFD, GCFD, DRFP, GRFD, PSFD, FD28, SFD, WFD, NFD, a second CFD, JFD, MHFD, and LFD. Got that? Dig all the custom cab rigs that are shown. No explanation is provided for the annotations, however. Click to view:

One of the Deep River C-8000's was featured in a Pierce brochure way back when.

DJ - 05/21/12 - 22:14

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

Video of Wilmington Brush Fire Crossing 17th Street

05/22/12 109 W - + 12 - 7

For your morning interest, sundry YouTube searching finds this five-minute video of the Pine Valley Fire in Wilmington on April 16, 2012. This citizen-shot footage shows the flames approaching and then crossing the 17th Street Extension. Here's a page of WWAY stories about the fire. Here's a city information page about the fire, which includes a nifty fact sheet summarizing the resources used. Included 14 pieces of apparatus and 60 personnel (including 50 call back) from Wilmington FD, one engine and two units for city fill-in from New Hanover County FD, and two EMS units, one rehab unit, and one supervisor from New Hanover EMS.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

Post Comment Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Pilot's Engine 72

05/23/12 30 W, 1 I - + 10 - 3

Here's an interested apparatus photographed yesterday by Lee Wilson, Pilot Fire Department in Franklin County, and their 1989 Mack/EEI pumper(-tanker?). See more photos.

Lee Wilson photo

Good looking fleet Pilot. What is you all's call volume?

911 - 05/24/12 - 16:20

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Post Comment Preview Comment (Register your username / Log in)

Spreader

05/23/12 67 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

Extrication in action this afternoon by Cary Fire Department Rescue 2, part of a "here's what a fatal accident involving teens and drinking looks like" demo for students at Cary Academy. Good reds in this shot, helped by bright sunlight, two red "collided" cars, and a red running track as roadway. See more photos. Please don't drink and drive. Click to enlarge:

This is really GREAT outreach to our kids! Also, and in concert, the "VIP for a VIP" program is NC based and provides a real "class act" vehicle accident prevention program for high school students across our state. Here is a recent Enloe HS VIP event: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnbF2vol0.. ...and a previous Granville Co. (Webb HS) VIP event: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LTdLW04J8.. If any are interested in assisting the program, contact may be made from the VIP website: http://modernrescue.com/VIP.htm ...or their FB page: http://www.facebook.com/VIPforaVIP

A.C. Rich - 05/26/12 - 00:52

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Historical Revision - Six Alarms at Pine Knoll Townes

05/24/12 365 W - + 10 - 6

For years, Yours Truly has called Pine Knoll Townes a five-alarm fire. That is incorrect, as demonstrated by this recently found resource summary. As compiled by then-Battalion Chief Peter Brock, it shows six alarms for the $4 million fire that destroyed or seriously damaged 32 homes and displaced 29 families and 72 people. Commence correcting your historical information, which may include:

- *Fire & Rescue Journal* article by Mike Legeros, Spring 2010, pages 6-7.
- *Raleigh Fire Department 2007: 95 Years of Tradition*, published by M.T. Publishing, page 159.
- Raleigh Fire Department historical timelines by Mike Legeros
- Raleigh Fire Department historical presentation slides, ditto.
- Incident photo descriptions by Mike Legeros and Lee Wilson
- Assorted blog postings, such as this Big Fire Summary.

We'll get to work on those...

--

Pine Knoll Townes Resources
3525 Oneonta Place
February 22, 2007
Compiled by Battalion Chief Peter Brock

Time	Alarm Level	Assignment	Notes	Resource Commitment
15:04	still	E27		1 engine
15:04	still	E19, BC4		2 engines
15:08	1st	E9, E7, E22, L16, R19, BC1		5 engines, 1 ladder
15:12	2nd	E6, E16, E4, E18, L23, L26		9 engines, 3 ladders
15:18	3rd	E2, 14, E25, L22, BC3		12 engines, 4 ladders
15:19	special called	E15, E21, Haz-Mat 15		14 engines, 4 ladders
15:22	4th	E26, E8, L20, R14	brand patrol	16 engines, 5 ladders
15:25	5th	New Hope E1, E2, Tanker 10, Brush 7, Falls Brush 219	brand patrol	
15:28	6th	E5, E10, E20, L1		19 engines, 6 ladders
16:00	special called	Two chiefs, 5 instructors, 32 recruits	recruit academy	
17:52	relief	E26, L20, R14		
21:06	relief	E25		
21:21	relief	E13, E20		
00:32	relief	E23, E5		
03:31	relief	E1, E11		
03:42	relief	L22		

Other Raleigh Fire Department resources on scene:

Car 1 (Command)
- Car 4
- Car 5 (Operations)
- Car 10 (PIO)
- Car 12
- Car 72
- Car 198 (Investigator)
- Air 8
- Field Command 1
- Other staff members

Raleigh Fire Department coverage provided by outside departments included:

- Bay Leaf engine at Station 9
- Bay Leaf L25 at Station 16
- Bethesda E421 at Station 24
- Cary E10 at Station 8
- Cary L1 at Station 8
- Durham Highway engine at Station 4
- Falls engine Station 4
- Garner E11 at Station 1
- Garner L1 at Station 1
- Knightdale squirt at Station 12
- New Hope at their station, covering Station 19 and Station 27
- Rolesville engine at Station 15
- Swift Creek engine at Station 20
- Wake Forest engine at Station 19
- Wake Forest ladder at Station 25

I remember going through the roof access to watch the large column of smoke on top of FV sta. 3. I have watch quite a few large fires in Raleigh from up there. You can also see some of the rides at night when the fair is in town.
remember - 05/24/12 - 22:21

New Hope Tanker 9 was also on the 5th alarm. Its what fed the tiller, as the hydrant they caught was dead.
Doppler - 05/27/12 - 02:18

@ Doppler,how much water on that tanker? and pump size? Just wondering, since it "supplied" the tiller
sayitaintso - 05/27/12 - 12:02

T-9 has a 1250 tank and at that time about a 300gpm pump. Don't know how that ended up being but we have pictures.
Doppler - 05/28/12 - 16:10

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

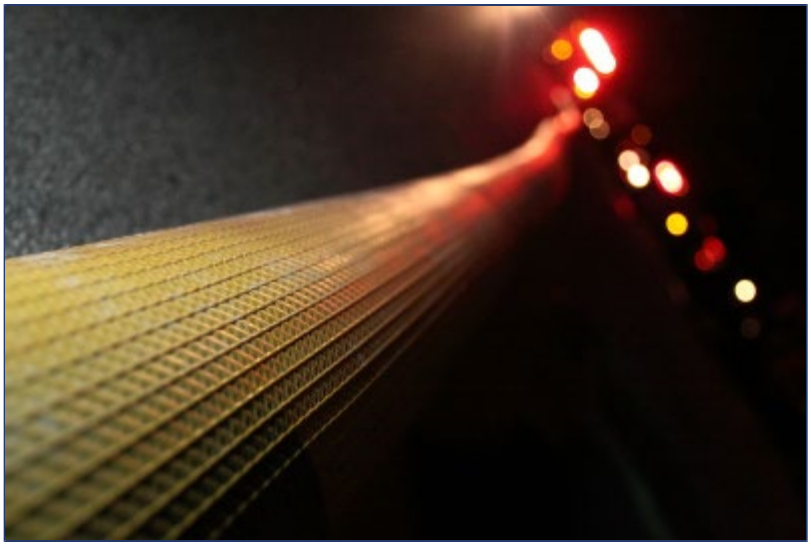
Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

Portrait or Landscape?

05/25/12 67 W, 2 I - + 6 - 7

Here's an artsy shot from last night's house fire on Fieldcrest Drive. That's Engine 16's supply line to Engine 9. But is the picture better turned on its short end (portrait) or long end (landscape)? Someone schooled in art theory can probably explain which one "works" better. Can't decide, myself. And no cheating by turning your head sideways! Click to enlarge:



We can have some fun with semantics. Lee Wilson called this fire a sixth-alarm equivalent. Looking at resource list, and excluding the relief and overnight companies, should it now be called a seventh-alarm equivalent? But that's in 2007 terms. What's the equivalent in 2012, where dispatch assignments have since been expanded? Fifth-alarm equivalent? Now let's get historical and go back to the old "two engines, one ladder" method of computing alarm levels. Or "two engines" once you ran out of ladders. Ninth-alarm equivalent, no?

Legeros - 05/25/12 - 08:34

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Hide email: ☐ Yes, hide my email address.

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

Old Engine From Cana

05/25/12 40 W, 1 I - + 7 - 7

Photographer Lee Wilson's spending the holiday weekend in western North Carolina. He found this old engine somewhere between here and Spruce Pine. Vintage Dodge and lettered for Cana, VA. See more photos.

Lee Wilson photo

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?
- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Notify: ☐ Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Durham Highway Updates Web Site

05/25/12 39 W, 1 I - + 8 - 7

The Durham Highway Fire Department recently updated their web site. Notably are the addition of news stories and photo galleries. Visit the site at **www.dhfd.org**.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment: / Textile

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Six Forks Fire Chiefs

05/26/12 370 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

Here's another blast from the past, a list of the fire chiefs of the Six Forks Road Fire Department. They were Raleigh's first suburban fire department, organized in June 1956. (Soon followed by New Hope FD in September 1956 and Western Boulevard FD in January 1957.) Their members also formed Six Forks Rescue Squad in 1976 and for the first ten years of the squad's operation, members were required to be either SFFD members or their spouses.

The Six Forks Road Fire Department-- later shortened to just Six Forks FD-- had four station locations, three on Six Forks Road and the last one on Lynn Road. Their house became Bay Leaf Station 3 when the department merged with Bay Leaf Fire Department on July 1, 2002. Here's a short timeline of their history (compiled some years ago). Need a good picture gallery to go with that, though. Any ideas? Say a Wake County Fire Departments historical photo gallery?? (Might know just the buff/historian to make that one happen...)

Search the blog for more SFFD history, including these postings (three of which repeat the same photo above!):

- Six Forks Fire Department, Photos
- Six Forks Fire Department, 1971 - Part 2
- Six Forks Fire Department, 1971
- Six Forks Fire Department, Circa 1974
- Six Forks Fire Department
- Six Forks

Here's the list of Fire Chiefs as compiled by longtime SFFD and BLFD member Bob Edmundson. We've added them to our Wake County Fire Chiefs list. Thanks Bob!

First	Middle	Last	Start	Stop	Total	Notes	Dates
William	T	Howell	1956	1957	1	First Fire Chief	Apr 30, 1956 – Oct 14, 1957
Allen		Thompson	1957	1958	1		Oct 14, 1957 - June 30, 1958
David	H	Pattishall	1958	1959	1		July 1 to June 30
Raymond	C	Jones	1959	1960	1		July 1 to June 30
William	T	Howell	1960	1961	1		July 1 to June 30

Peter	J	Harris	1961	1963	2		July 1 to June 30
Norman	C	Champion	1963	1964	1		July 1 to June 30
Raymond	C	Jones	1964	1965	1		July 1 to June 30
David		Barham	1965	1971	6		July 1 to June 30
Hunter		Averette	1971	1973	2		July 1 to June 30
Joe		Terry	1973	1975	2		July 1 to June 30
Lewis	E	Bartholomew	1975	1978	3	Died in office Feb. 14, 1978	July 1 to Feb. 14
Phillip	C	Woodlief	1978	1986	8		March to June 30
Alfred	E	Lynn	1986	1991	5		July 1 to June 30
Don		Adams	1991	1998	7		July 1 to June 30
Rodney		Warner	1998	2002	4	SFFD merges with BLFD	July 1 to June 30

Lots of good memories from that old blue shack and its people! Miss you SFFD!
AB - 06/01/12 - 12:43

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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

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

Architecture Students Design Fire Museums For Raleigh

05/26/12 306 W, 2 I - + 7 - 6

On May 4, 2012, a fire museum design project review was held in the Rotunda at Brooks Hall at North Carolina State University. A jury reviewed the work of students in an six-credit architectural design studio class, which was comprised of eight graduate and three fourth-year undergrad architecture students. This studio-type course is required of every architecture student for every semester they are in the program, noted their instructor Roger Clark. Unlike a lecture or seminar course, the studio class requires students to apply information from other courses while designing a particular project located on a particular site. (Any readers who've been through this program, you know who you are, feel free to add perspectives...)

The students were assigned a hypothetical project of designing a new Raleigh Fire Department Museum on one of three sites: (a.) urban street, (b.) prominent corner on the fringe of downtown, and (c.) prominent road on a suburban site. The museum was to house the department's current antique apparatus, as well as any they might obtain in the future. It was also to house historical images and other two-dimensional information and three-dimensional objects related to the history of firefighting and the Raleigh Fire Department.

There was to be a meeting/community room, a children's area, a library for log books and materials, and a memorial to honor fallen members or all past members. The facility was to serve as a history museum, as well as an education center and a place to honor firefighters. Raleigh Fire Museum members participated at the beginning of the semester, providing tours, presentations, and other information to the students.

See photographs by Legeros. And read a subsequent blog posting by designer (and new graduate) Sara Horn.

Did I miss it or is there more main stream media/city-wide attention to this effort? Solid designs NCSU...!
A.C. Rich - 05/26/12 - 12:10

The school project started back in November, I believe. But the museum is definitely getting more attention these days and weeks as we approach our June 16 centennial celebration.
Legeros - 05/26/12 - 12:21

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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Fire Station Information on Web Pages

05/26/12 265 W - + 8 - 6

You know what would be great? If every fire department listed their fire station locations on a single web page, with street addresses *and* the year opened or built. Just a single, simple, flat list. Easy to read, easy to print. Plus bonus points if they include companies or apparatus, locations of prior locations, and/or which direction the building faces. (The last one's great for buffs or media, both of whom might take pictures or film in front of the station.)

The above was a Facebook status update this week. It prompted a couple comments on fire station phone numbers. Didn't mention phone numbers, as that's its own kettle of fish. But let's the blog audience. Good or bad, making fire station phone numbers public?

Arguments against include (a.) people might call there instead of 911 to report a fire and (b.) reporters will call in the middle of night for details about fires on the other side of the city or county. Arguments for include (a.) easier for community members to contact their neighborhood fire station, (b.) people with forethought will call the station instead of 911 to ask about checking their smoke detectors.

I've observed both. Some cities (and big cities) list all their station addresses and phone numbers right along side. Maybe the crews hate it? Maybe they love it? And I've seen the opposite, where you can't find but a single phone number for an entire fire department. (What other angles am I missing here? Homeland security concerns? Traditions of secrecy or withholding? You tell me...)

As a member of a dept with our number avail through information and in the phone book, I can say it increases phone activity a little bit. We do receive calls that should have been directed to 911, of course at that point we direct them there. They are not numerous thou. We receive them from Raleigh and Durham. Much of the time they are simply looking for general information or help with a smoke detector. I think it would be much easier for the public to have access to said list. However the larger problem is most of the public really doesn't know which fire dept services them. Even after explaining we aren't their fire dept, they still want us to come right over. They may just continue to call the first number on the list.

Doppler - 05/27/12 - 01:28

Per ISO you should have your fire departments number posted in your local phone book in at least 2 sections a)Under the stations actual name and b)under the listing of "Fire Department". You are supposed to list them with the 911 number and a non-emergency number.

John Maynard (Email) - 05/27/12 - 16:58

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Comment: / Textile

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Kid’s Zone Sponsored by Kidde to be Part of Raleigh Fire Department Centennial Celebration June 16

05/26/12 164 W, 2 I - + 12 - 3

Press release. What child hasn’t at one time played firefighter or was thrilled to be up close to a real fire truck? Kidde, the world’s largest manufacturer of fire safety products will make these dreams come true for kids attending the Raleigh Fire Department’s Centennial Celebration in downtown Raleigh on Saturday, June 16.

Kidde is sponsoring the Kid’s Zone that will be located at the corner of Salisbury, Lenoir and South streets. At Kidde’s booth, there will be a bean-bag toss, toy fire truck races, and a smoke alarm testing station for children. Kids who participate will get a balloon, temporary tattoos, and other giveaways. Educational fire and carbon monoxide safety information from Kidde will be available for parents as well as kids.

Read entire press release. And learn more about the cenetennial celebration at www.RFD100.com.

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Raleigh's Past Treasures - Questions From a Reader

05/26/12 338 W, 1 I - + 9 - 4

Longtime resident Cliff Small sends the following comments and questions. He's lived in town since 1967 and remembers much of "old Raleigh." He has four questions, which we're punting to our blog readers. Answers? More questions? Thanks for everyone's help.

1. He's a covered bridge buff and last year was stunned and thrilled to find that there had been a covered bridge on the old Louisburg Road, now Capital Boulevard, over Crabtree Creek. His only real source about this is from this web page.

   He's been going mad trying to find out more information on this bridge. All he has found is that there was a bridge there named the Jones Bridge. This is the same family of the Crabtree Joneses, maybe? There was an encampment North of the site during the Civil War. There is a parallel railroad bridge and some curious metal pieces sticking out of the ground along the greenway trail nearby.

2. He currently lives off Lead Mine Road and has seen a photo online of the mine shaft, but doesn't know exactly where it was/is. (He can't find that online article currently.) There is the old red building across from Mine Shaft Road. He did find this story, however, about a mine inside the Beltline.

3. He can remember when you could cross under the train tracks off Capital Boulevard, where you get onto Wake Forest Road and go over to Atlantic Avenue. This was a one-lane deal. I wish this could be opened up again for at least bicyclists as a part of a bike trail access to the downtown area.

4. Are there any plan views of the old Bloomsbury Park that anyone knows of?

--

May 28, 2012

This isn't quite what Cliff is asking for, but it's still interesting. It's a 1913 plan for Terminal Park beside Bloomsbury Park. It's featured in the recently published book *Stories to Tell - A Centennial Celebration of Carolina Country Club: 1910-2010*. Click to enlarge:

Regarding question #2, the linked story is about a cave off Airline Drive that's beside a creek bed, and that we've blogged about before: http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..

Save is on private property, on the back of someone's residential lot. I'd heard, somewhere, that the cave was used for storing or hiding things during the Civil War. Unsure if that's a former mine.

Regarding the "lead mine" of Lead Mine Road, that refers to the land north and west of the Lynn and Lead Mine road intersection. There was a graphite mine there, with three shafts, I believe. If you climb that hill, along Lead Mine, you'll find graphite traces on the ground. Pretty cool.

Maybe twenty years ago, the N&O featured a property owner there, who had pumped out one of the shafts, and taken a picture in there. More than a few people have probably tried to find that place!

I am also sending Cliff some reader-sent information, for further sources.
Legeros - 05/28/12 - 17:12

Regarding #4, see drawing added above.
Legeros - 05/28/12 - 17:28

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

Remember personal info?
Yes
No

Comment: / Textile

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

Old Snow Hill Fire Station

05/27/12 195 W, 1 I - + 11 - 4

Took this picture early this afternoon, returning from a morning jaunt to Kinston. This is a former fire station in Snow ~~Camp~~ Hill, in Greene County. It's located a couple blocks from the downtown. Looks like a fire station built in the sixties or seventies, perhaps? Maybe in two stages or two eras, flat roof at start, pitched roof when remodeled? The bay sizes are uniform, so it doesn't appear to be a station that started small and was expanded. The number of bays suggest both municipal and rural apparatus. Maybe separate departments?

Based on the age and historic designation of the downtown, Snow Hill almost certainly had a fire department earlier in the century. Next question, where was the prior or perhaps original fire station? Best guess is a early-century municipal building or town hall, maybe with a single bay for a fire engine. (Though there looked to be a 1930s era municipal building on First Street, with a WPA plaque. Didn't see any bay or garage space. Perhaps by the 1930s, a dedicated fire station was operating?) Readers perhaps can answer.

I believe you mean Snow Hill,Mike. I used to ride EMS there and our bay was the far right bay.
John Maynard (Email) - 05/27/12 - 18:06

The 2 right bays were the original station. The left three bays were added. Paul Miller, Executive Director of the NC Sate Firemans Association, was the Asst. Chief here for years. He may be able to shed more light on the history if someone can make contact with him. Their new station is now in an industrial park off of Hwy 58 just south of the intersection of US 258. It is between the Trade Mart and Beaman's restaraunt.
John Maynard (Email) - 05/27/12 - 18:14

Snow Hill Fire? Never heard of Snow Camp.
2redline (Email) - 05/27/12 - 18:18

Never heard of Snow Camp either! Thanks for the corrections.
Legeros - 05/27/12 - 18:20

Mike, actually there is a Snow Camp, NC. It is an unincorporated community in southern Alamance County and they have a fire department. http://www.snowcampfire.com/ Here is the link to their website. So technically you were not wrong, just the wrong county.

Scenes from the Kinston Regional Jetport

05/27/12 234 W, 3 I - + 9 - 6

As photographed this morning at the Kinston Regional Jetport. Top is a former fire station building, part a former maintenance building. Located beside the terminal building and dates to at least twenty years ago. Then the fire station was moved "up the ramp" to another combination building (since demolished), located where the Forest Service currently sites. (They have a big base there.) At the time the fire station was moved, the fire siren was also moved. That's the second photo, showing a utility building located just east of the control tower, and a couple hundred feet from terminal.

Third photo is the airport's reserve crash truck undergoing service in the maintenance garage. Those bays are part of a combination fire station and maintenance building located on John Mewborne Road, just "up the ramp" from the Forest Service base. The fire station has two bays in the building, facing air-side. Their primary apparatus is an E-One Titan triple-agent crash truck. Firefighters are maintenance personnel who do double-duty.

See more photos, including a couple close-ups of the rig below. That's a late-eighties/early-nineties (?) Walter that's been refurbed in more recent years, probably by CRES. Wonder how many other airports in our state have cross-staffed firefighters?

Fire stations of last 20 years:

- Combination maintenance building and fire station, with two fire station bays. Located on John Mewborne Road. Recently built.

- Combination building on or around current location of Forest Service base. Demolished.

- Combination building beside terminal building. Still standing.

Fire siren located on utility building between control tower and Forest Service base. Moved there when fire station moved from third most recent location to second most recent location

Apparatus of last 20 years:

- 2008 E-One P501 4×4, 1500 GPM, 1500/205/550, water/foam/dry chemical. Delivered in recent years. Replaced Walter crash truck and dry chemical truck.

- Walter crash truck, water/foam. Replaced prior crash truck. Later refurbished. Present reserve.

- Dry-chemical truck.

- Crash truck.

Legeros - 05/27/12 - 18:27

The NC Division of Emergency Management's Eastern Branch Office was also located in the now-demolished building next to the Forest Service air base. The SHP helo pilots also had an office in that building until they moved to a new hanger and office. The NCEM EBO moved from there over to to a new building, adjacent to the GTP Training and Education Center on NC 58N; this is about a mile from the north end of the runway. The EBO also activates as a regional coordination center for 33 counties when necessary during an emergency, such as a hurricane or winter storm.

D.L. Humphrey - 05/27/12 - 19:19

THe Walter is very similar to RDU's 1977 model. I would bet they added the reel to the front during the refurb, as well as the new nozzle for the roof. More than likely, it came from the factory originally with a Rockwood dual agent turret.

DJ - 05/27/12 - 21:52

Bull Head Fire Department

05/27/12 84 W, 1 I - + 10 - 3

Would you believe a Bull Head Fire Department? This one's also in Greene County, between Snow Hill and Stantonsburg. How 'bout that building adornment! Guess we'd be better include a few puns to complete the fun. Wouldn't want to steer you wrong, or put my reputation at steak. Hopefully this posting is well done, lest we descend into udder silliness. (Not exactly a meaty topic, mind you, but that's rare. Just don't grill me about it.) Click to enlarge:

We pass it all the time heading to the beach!
Jason Lane - 05/27/12 - 19:07

I pass it a couple of times a week. Only once have I seen there trucks or for that matter anybody there. I do know they were broken into a couple of years ago and had a bunch of equipment stolen. No Bull
Doppler - 05/28/12 - 16:04

Now thats funny to me on a personal note
Rob Mitchell - 05/28/12 - 19:53

The Bull Head VFD is in the Bull Head community of Greene Co. The name comes from the Revolutionary War period when a land owner turned his prize bull out of the pasture when the British were coming, rather than have them take the bull. Legend is that that bull charged the Red Coats who then shot him, cut off his head and mounted it on a fence post on the owner's land. I heard this story many times when growing up in Snow Hill.
Bob Edmundson - 05/28/12 - 21:38

I more like Meat Camp VFD in Watauga Co. Just down the hill from Elk Knob State Park. I understand they're building a new firehouse. I'll see if I can get some pics next time I go out that way.
Mike Duda (Email) - 05/28/12 - 23:17

Its almost as good as the Buckhead Fire dept in Columbus co. who have a deer head adorning their station out front.

Jim McArthur - 05/29/12 - 19:46

There is Skull Camp Fire Dept. in Low Gap,NC. But I don,t think they have a Skull on the front of the station.

Galax, VA - 05/30/12 - 09:41

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

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

Johnson City Central Fire Hall

05/28/12 68 W, 1 I - + 6 - 8

Vacationing photographer Lee Wilson found this historic firehouse late last week in Johnston City, TN. That's their Station 3 and fire department headquarters. The building was built in 1929. Read more about JCFD engine houses. And what other departments around these parts also call their houses halls? See more photos from Lee, which include other Johnson City stations and apparatus.

Lee Wilson photo

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Big Burn in New Bern

05/28/12 78 W, 1 I - + 11 - 2

The *Sun Journal* has posted this reader photo of this evening's commercial structure fire on the New Bern waterfront. It was reported about 7:00 p.m. at 901 N. Craven Street. The building is occupied by Precision Molding. New Bern FD, West of New Bern FD, and Township 7 FD are among the reported agencies on scene. Read more. Or see this FireNews.net story with more details and photos.

@basicallyrachel (Twitter) / Sun Journal photo

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- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

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Johnson City's New Tower

05/30/12 62 W, 1 I - + 9 - 5

Speaking of Tennessee, here's another photo from Lee Wilson's explorations of the Johnson City Fire Department last week. This beauty is Truck 3, a 2012 Smeal aerial platform, 2000 GPM, 300 gallons, 100-feet, that was placed in service on week ago. Was originally built for the Chicago Fire Department. See more photos from JCFD and Lee's mountain trip.

Lee Wilson photo

What's the story behind "was originally built for Chicago Fire Department"? Did they reject, purchase cancelled, or what?
Chris - 05/30/12 - 20:15

agreed im curious for for more information into this story
curious - 05/31/12 - 10:04

Maybe they rejected it because it is a quint…
quint - 05/31/12 - 22:03

Name: (real name preferred)

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- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

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The Adventures of Charlie LeDuff

05/30/12 139 W, 1 I - + 11 - 6

Here's your investigative reporting video of the week, highlighted by Dave Statter of Statter911 and featuring Detroit's famous (infamous?) reporter Charlie LeDuff. The story contrasts the city's spending on a new public safety building with physical problems (notably plumbing) in some firehouses. Tough situation, for sure. And nothing (right?) like we have in the Carolinas, and on either side of the camera.

There's lots to reflect on here. The nature of investigative journalism, as well as LeDuff's "gotcha" style. The business of public relations and reputation management. The problems in urban fire departments with old stations and tight budgets. The city of Detroit, and it's one-of-a-kind fire problem. Very interesting in many ways, both the story and the issues. For more Charlie, see some of the other links in Statter's posting.

Seems like there is a lot of subject matter for Mr. LeDuff in Detroit. I have been following his reports for some time.
DJ - 05/30/12 - 11:08

I would be curious to know the real story behind the firehouses. The reporter said one house didn't even have an engine company in it. I find it hard to believe the houses with sewage issues are in service. Surely our brothers haven't become so cowardly to live in such conditions and not stand up for themselves.
Rescue Ranger - 05/30/12 - 11:49

There's a provocative label, cowardly. Is the man behind the brick door a coward or a realist for not trying to break the door down with his fists? (It's early, weak metaphor.) I'm guessing the Detroit system simply isn't strong enough to provide resources that would obtained through such standing-up for selves. And the fires continue to start, and the trucks continue to roll. What's Joe or Jane Employee to do? No answers here, but sympathies for sure.

Legeros - 06/01/12 - 07:59

A simple call to OSHA would surely remedy the situation if the firefighters were truly living in those conditions which is why I stated I'd like to hear the true story because all of us public safety workers know how much the media can bend the information that they own.

Rescue Ranger - 06/01/12 - 23:11

That DC got canned for his actions in the video

Mike - 06/01/12 - 23:45

RR, Big City Politics is pretty tough at times. People on the payrolls of whoever. There are no doubt OSHA rules about everything it seems, but what has happened in Detroit did not happen over night. And LeDuff is not the only one reporting it. DFD has long been know as being a neglected department. I am sure the IAFF local has fought, as best they can. But at the core is the inherent corruptness that seems to be Detroit itself.

DJ - 06/02/12 - 07:56

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Raleigh's Fire Alarm Bell Will Hold Place of Honor at Centennial Celebration on June 16

05/30/12 136 W, 2 I - + 12 - 1

Press release. A centerpiece of the Raleigh Fire Department's 100th anniversary celebration was middle-aged the day the department was established. In 1912, the city established its first paid, professional fire department. By that time, Raleigh's fire alarm bell had been atop City Hall for 42 years. These days, except for very special occasions, the 1,000-pound, solid bronze bell rests in its place of honor surrounded by a specially built curved wall in the Raleigh Fire Museum. But the beautiful old bell will be at center stage on Saturday, June 16, when the Raleigh Fire Department celebrates this century of exemplary service with a downtown party. Read entire press release. Or learn more about the centennial celebration at **www.RFD100.com**.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

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- No

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Old-Fashioned Firefighter Games in Raleigh on June 16

05/31/12 275 W, 2 I - + 11 - 4

Time is running out to enter your team in the firefighter games planned in downtown Raleigh on Saturday, June 16. The contests are part of an all-day centennial celebration, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Raleigh Fire Department. And it's real easy to participate. Have four firefighters on your team. Bring your PPE. Must be 18 or older. Sign a waiver. That's it. Departments can enter more than one team. And teams can compete in any of the four events. Here's what's planned:

- Bucket Brigade - Fill buckets, throw water on a simulated roof top, gutters drain into barrel, time stops when barrel is full. Best time wins.
- Command and Control - Three firefighters with blindfolds and a hose, fourth member standing in a water container and shouting orders. Elimination event, most water in container wins.
- Hose Stream Deployment - Run to gear, dress in gear, run to hose, connect hose to nozzle and hydrant, flow water, spray target. Best time wins.
- Quick Dress - Run to gear, dress in gear. Best time wins.

Longer descriptions and the registration forms are available on **www.RFD100.com**. And the games are just one of the events that day. We'll start with a fire apparatus parade at 10:00 a.m., continue with a muster including live pumping. There'll be birthday cake, historical displays, and a Kidde Kids Zone with activities for children.

Here are photos of similar firefighter games, as annually held in Warrenton and Southport. And read a historical perspective on firefighter competitions in North Carolina. Departments competed annual in statewide tournaments going back to the 1880s. See you on June 16!

Car 20 > Station 1

05/31/12 191 W - + 11 - 1

Time to update our Raleigh Fire Department unit rosters. Effective tomorrow, June 1, the fire investigation unit (Car 20) will move from Station 9 to Station 1. Also moving is Car 21, the secondary / reserve unit, and the supporting personnel from Engine 9. They'll be swapped with personnel from Engine 1. The fire investigation unit will utilize newly vacated and newly expanded office space and living areas at Station 1 and around the corner at Fire Administration.

Welcome back to the big house to the investigators. The "arson squad" started at Station 1 and was moved to Station 9 by June 3, 2000. (Exact date to be determined.) They utilized space previously occupied by the Division Chief, who moved to Station 8 in December 2005. As for who else has been housed at Station 9 over the decades...

Engine 9	Feb. 14, 1963 to present
Rescue 9	Oct. 28, 1974 to July 24, 1978
Mini 9	Apr. 24, 1987 to Mar. 14, 1997 Jan. 7, 1998 to June 3, 2000 Jan. 25, 2006 (?) to Aug. 17, 2007.
Tanker 9	Feb. 14, 1963 to Oct. 27, 1974
Car 51 (Battalion Chief, formerly Car 4)	July 24, 1978 (?) to January 2, 2001
Car 10 (Division Chief, formerly Car 5)	Jan. 2, 2001 to Dec. 10, 2005.
Car 20 (Fire Investigator, formerly Car 198), Car 21 (secondary / reserve)	Jun. 3, 2000 (?) to Jun. 1, 2012

Read more Raleigh Fire Department company and unit histories in this PDF document.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

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- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

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Second Annual Garner Softball Tournament, Saturday, August 4

05/31/12 276 W - + 11 - 7

Our friends at the Garner Fire Department pass along this announcement:

> The second annual Garner Fire Rescue Softball Tournament has been scheduled! It will be held on Saturday, August 4, 2012, at Clayton Recreation Park. This is the same location as last year. All proceeds from this year's event will go to the construction of the Garner Veterans Memorial to be constructed in Lake Benson Park in Garner. The memorial will honor servicemen and servicewomen from the Garner area who've served in armed conflicts.
>
> Our tournament last year was a great success and we hope to build on that. Last year, six teams participated. Our goal is to double that amount to twelve teams. The entry fee is again $200 per team. Each team may be comprised of up to two different public safety agencies and credentials are subject to be checked. As this is a public safety charity tournament, and we would like only public safety personnel to participate in teams.
>
> Teams may be co-ed but we will play by male rules. Softballs will be provided by Garner Fire Rescue. It will be a one-day tournament, though the exact format is TBD. (Last year we were able to guarantee four games per team with pool play. We are looking to possibly do the same this year.) Team Registration forms, Roster forms, and Sponsorship forms are available on this web page. Money and rosters are requested no later than Friday, July 27. Preregistration is welcome by either phone or e-mail. Thank you for your time and please do not hesitate to contact me with further questions.
>
> Ronnie Correia
> rcorreia@garnerfire.com
> 919-625-7112

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

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