

Thirty-Third Raleigh Fire Academy Graduates March 12

03/04/07 247 W - + 10 - 18

Press release, passed along by a reader: The City of Raleigh Fire Department will hold a graduation ceremony for the 33rd training academy March 12, 7:00 p.m., at Fletcher Opera Theater at the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts. .

Thirty-two new recruits have spent the last 24 weeks engaged in classes from fire suppression to emergency medical training. Some of the graduates will fill 15 new positions to staff Raleigh Fire Department Fire Station 28 on Forestville Road. Some of the graduates will fill 15 new positions to staff Raleigh Fire Department Fire Station 28 on Forestville Road. Upon graduation from the academy, the new firefighters will be North Carolina State Certified Emergency Medical Technicians and N.C. State Certified Fire Fighter II. "We are very proud of these new firefighters that have endured rigorous training with dedication and perseverance," said Raleigh Fire Chief John McGrath.

The class is the first since the fire department streamlined the application process and made a more concerted effort to recruit minority candidates. The City received 671 applications for the training academy. "The department held several open-house events at Raleigh fire stations," said Chief McGrath, "and increased advertising in radio and television as well as print.

The most effective means of recruiting for the fire department remains word of mouth. Applicants were surveyed on the manner they became aware of the firefighter position with the City of Raleigh . The highest number of respondents said they were referred by someone they knew.

Something new is going to be the company assignment of each recruit announced at graduation when they receive their collar insignia.

Silver - 03/04/07 - 22:37

Question – I see that some will go to Station 28, does Raleigh still place "rookies" at 'low call volume', 'mid call volume', and 'high call volume' stations for a set period of time and then rotate them; so that the rookies don't get 'stuck' at a relatively slow station for a long period of time?

Luke - 03/05/07 - 00:42

Jeff, that's a great idea.

I find it interesting that applicants still said word of mouth was the highest number of "how you found out" even with all the recruiting tools, just goes to show that tell a phone, tell a graph and tell a fireman holds true!

CFP 7021 - 03/05/07 - 00:57

The Wake and District PS Pipes and Drums will also be playing that the RFD graduation.

Mike - 03/05/07 - 13:14

Luke, yes.....right now it's a 6 month rotation.

Silver - 03/05/07 - 15:16

1st, I really don't think they will send any probies to 28. Yes the word is they will still rotate like the last slow, med, busy. I would be surprised if any of them went slower than maybe 21 or 22 but that is just my 2 cents. 2nd finding out your assignment at graduation is not new. That is how they did it for a very long time, just in the last 7 years or so that they gave them heads up. But the collar insignia is new. CP30 that was a shocker to a lot of people when they answered that question! Silver thanks for the local support that is a record in my opinion that out of 32, 22 were interested in the local (ROCK ON!). Mike and everyone else the PIPES and DRUMS have done the promotional ceremony. And if I'm not mistaken maybe back in 97, 98 or 99 one of the graduations they had a piper come down from VA. to play and that was a first. So this time will be the first with the pipes and drum line!!!! Don't forget the pipes and drums will be marching in the Saint Patty's Day parade on the 17th. and they are lining up public safety officers from different groups to carry the flags out front. Off the subject Silver, Dicks sporting goods has colored medical tape, I took your advise and used it on my New York hook, thanks Bro!!!!

Jason Lane - 03/07/07 - 02:36

What the press release writer probably meant to write was that 15 of the recruits will fill vacancies opened by personnel moving to 28.

Legeros - 03/07/07 - 06:23

This year the recruits will spend one year at a particular station instead of six months. They still will move from a slow to med. to high call volume stations hopefully with locations that will give them the opportunity to see and work around various apparatus in the city.

L.A. Walters ([Email](#)) - 03/09/07 - 11:20

Jason, my bad on the company assignments, I didn't know they did it before. Like you said above, we were given our assignments a few days before graduation. I really like the rotation idea for rookies, which to me has many benefits.

No problem with the tape J, every fire I go on you see tools just laying around and the marker with "L-?" is worn off. The tape seems to last longer, and is more visible. It would be great to come up with a department wide color system, just so nobody duplicates each other. I bet you'd see less "missing" equipment.

Silver - 03/09/07 - 12:35

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

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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