

North Carolina Fire Departments in 1902

09/19/09 1419 W - + 10 - 11

For your weekend enjoyment, here's an interesting find from Google. These are entries from the *Complete Directory of North Carolina*, published in 1902 by the *News & Observer*, and as [digitized on this web page](#). Quite a few cities and towns had fire departments or fire department officials, including such considerably lesser-known town as Boardman and Tillery. There are several departments missing, oddly. Such as Wilmington and Warrenton. *Additional information in italics* has been added from Sanborn Maps from the period. Plus some parenthetical information on a couple of the lesser-known towns. Enjoy!

Albemarle (pop. 950)

Fire department not listed in directory.

Had one ladder truck in 1902.

Asheville (pop. 14,694)

Supt. Fire Dept. - J. P. Sawyer

Had 50 volunteers, 4 horses, three hose wagons, three hand reels, and one ladder truck in 1901.

Beaufort (pop. 400?)

Supt. Fire Dept. - C. V. Roberson

Had hose cart and chemical engine in 1904.

Boardman (pop. 604)

Fire Marshal - E. B. Wright

[Columbus County. Had Postmaster, Police Chief, schools, etc.]

Burlington (pop. 4000?)

Fire department not listed in directory.

Had 20 volunteers and two reel carts in 1904.

Carthage (pop. ?)

Supt. Fire Dept. - Dave Mctver

Charlotte (pop. 18,091)

Supt. Fire Department - W. W. Irvine

Had paid fire department with 13 men fully paid, 10 paid at fires only, 40 volunteers, 9 horses, two steamers, two hose wagons, one hose reel, and one extension ladder truck in 1900.

Clinton (pop. 953)

Supt. Fire Dept. - H. B. Chesnutt, Ex-officio

Concord (pop. 14,000?)

Supt. of Fire Dept. - J. L. Miller

Chief of Hose and Reel - R. W. Johnston

Chief of Hook and Ladder (Col.) - James Roger

Had 54 volunteers, one hose reel, two hand hose reels, and one hand ladder truck in 1902.

Dunn (pop. 1200?)

Fire department not listed in directory.

Had 30? volunteers and three hose carts in 1904.

Durham (pop. 7,391)

Fire Companies and Chiefs - Durham Hose Co. Nos. 1 and 2

Had 50 volunteers, six horses, three hose wagons, and one ladder truck in 1902.

Edenton (pop. 4,000?)

Fire department not listed in directory.

Had 50 volunteers, three reel carts, and one ladder truck in 1904.

Elizabeth City (pop. 8,500)

Fire Commissioner. - A. C. Stokes and Charles Reid

Fire Companies - Albemarle Fire Co., A. C. Stokes, Chief; Charles Reid, First Assistant Chief.

Had 74 volunteers and three partly paid men, six horses, one steamer, three hose carts, and one ladder truck in 1902.

Enfield (pop. 900?)

Fire department not listed in directory.

Had one hand engine and one hose cart in 1900.

Fayetteville (pop. 4,670)

Supt. Fire Dept. - R. I. Macduffle

Fire Companies - Fayetteville Fire Co., and others?

Had 30 volunteers, one steamer, and three hand reels in 1902.

Franklin (pop. 335)

Supt. of Fire Department - J. P. Bryson

[Macon County. Had Postmaster, Police Chief, school, stores, etc.]

Gastonia (pop. 4,610)

Supt. Fire Dept. - George G. Glenn

Had two hose carts in 1904.

Goldsboro (pop. 5,877)

Chief Fire Deft. - T. H. Bain

Had 50 men, three paid drivers, one paid engineer, three horses, one steamer, two hose wagons, two hand reels, and one ladder truck in 1901.

Graham (pop. 2000?)

Fire department not listed in directory.

Had 33 volunteers, one hand engine, and two hose carts in 1904.

Greensboro (pop. 11,000)

Chief Fire Debt. - F. N. Taylor

Fire Companies - Steam Co., Eagle Hose Co., Southside Co., West End Hose Co., Hook and Ladder Co.

Had 76 volunteers, five paid drivers, 10 horses, two steamers, three hose wagons, and one aerial ladder truck in 1902.

Greenville (pop. 2,665)

Supt. Fire Dept. - A. J. Griffin

Had 72 volunteers, one paid driver, two horses, one steamer, one hand hose wagon, one hand combination chemical/hand engine, one hand ladder truck in 1900.

Henderson (pop. 5,000?)

Fire department not listed in directory.

Had 51 volunteers, three hose carts, and one ladder truck in 1901.

Hendersonville (pop. 1,700?)

Fire department not listed in directory.

Had 19 volunteers, one hand hose reel, and one ladder truck in 1901.

Hickory (pop. 3,000)

Fire department not listed in directory.

Had one hand engine, one hand reel, and one ladder truck in 1902.

High Point (pop. 4,163)

Supt. Fire Dept. - D. H. Parnell

Had two hose carts in 1902.

Kinston (pop. 4,106)

Fire Department - George B. Webb, Foreman; T. B. Brown, Assistant Foreman

Fire Companies and Chiefs - Kinston Fire Company; Capt. Hose, H. W. Mckinnie; Chief Engineer, J. D. Taylor. Dread Not Hook and Ladder Co. (Col.), Ed. Hall

Had 60 volunteers, one steamer, one hose wagon, one hand hose wagon, and one hand ladder truck in 1901.

Laurinburg (pop. 1,334)

Chief Fire Dept - R. E. L. Correll

Had one hand engine and one hose cart in 1904.

Lenoir (pop. 1,290)

Supt. Fire Dept. - G. F. Harper

Had two hand engines in 1902.

Lumberton (pop. 849)

Supt. Fire Dept - W. J. Prevatt

Had 24 men, two reel carts, and one ladder truck in 1904.

Monroe (pop. 2,427)

Supt. Fire Dept. - S. J. Welsh

Had 60 volunteers, three hand reels, one ladder truck, and one reserve steamer in 1902.

Morganton (pop. 3,500?)

Fire department not listed in directory.

Had 40 volunteers, two hose carts, and one ladder truck in 1905.

Mount Airy (pop. 4,000?)

Fire department not listed in directory.

Had 30 volunteers and two hose carts in 1905.

New Bern (pop. 9,090)

Supt. Fire Dept. - W. S. Phillips

Fire Companies and Chiefs - Atlantic Fire Co., New Bern Fire Co., L. A. Taylor, Chief.

Had 60 volunteers, four paid men, three horses, two steamers, two hose wagons, one ladder truck, one hand reel in 1904.

North Wilkesboro (pop. 1,500?)

Fire department not listed in directory.

Had ? volunteers and one ladder truck in 1904.

Oxford (pop. 2,059)

Supt. Fire Dept. - J. F. Edwards

Had 40 volunteers, one hand engine, one hose cart, and one ladder truck in 1904.

Plymouth (pop. 1,500?)

Fire department not listed in directory.

Had ? volunteers, one hand engine, and one hose reel in 1900.

Raleigh (pop. 13,613)

Supt. Fire Dept. - L. H. Lumsden; E. H. Baker, Assistant

Fire Companies and Foremen - Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1, W. W. Parrish; Rescue Co. No. 1, R. E. Lumsden; Capital Hose Co. No. 3, Wm. J. Andrews; Victor Hose Co. No. 2 (Col.), Wm. H. Palmer.

Had 100 volunteers plus paid drivers, eight horses, three hose wagons, one ladder truck, and one reserve steamer in 1903.

Reidsville (pop. 3,200?)

Fire department not listed in directory.

Had eight volunteers, one paid driver, one hose wagon, three hand reels, one ladder truck, and one steamer in reserve in 1901.

Rocky Mount (pop. 2,937)

Supt. Fire Dept. - C. C. Cooper

Fire Companies and Chiefs - Fire Engine Co. No. 1, J. J. Battle, Foreman; Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1, L. L. Battle, Foreman.

Had 55 volunteers, two horses, one steamer, two hand hose carts, and one hand ladder truck in 1901.

Roxboro (pop. 1,021)

Fire Companies and Chiefs - Volunteer Fire Co., W. D. Merritt, Chief.

Had nine volunteers and two hose carts in 1900.

Salem (pop. 3,612)

Chief of Fire Dept. - F. C. Memmy

Had 40 volunteers, four horses, one steamer, one hose wagon, and one hose cart in 1900.

Salisbury (pop. 6,277)

Supt. Fire Dept. - P. H. Meroney

Fire Companies - Hook and Ladder Co., three Reel Companies, one Hose Company.

Had 46? volunteers, one paid driver, two horses, one hose wagon, four hand hose reels, one ladder truck in 1902.

Statesville (pop. 3,141)

Supt. Fire Dept. - T. L. Steele

Had 57 volunteers, six hose reels, and one ladder truck in 1900.

Tarboro (pop. 4,500?)

Supt. Fire Dept. - H. T. Dav

Fire Companies - Tarboro Hook and Ladder Co., Fulton Fire Co.

Had three hose carts in 1901.

Tillery (pop. 280?)

Fire Dept - W. E. Messenger

[Halifax County. Had Postmaster, Police Chief, stores, railroad agents, etc.]

Wadesboro (pop. 1,600)

Fire department not listed in directory.

Had 16 volunteers and one hand hose cart in 1902.

Warrenton (pop. 1,000?)

Fire department not listed in directory.

Had 36 volunteers, one combination chemical and hand engine, and one ladder truck in 1901.

Washington (pop. 20,000?)

Fire Dept. Chief - Jos. Chancey

Fire Companies and Chiefs - Ocean Fire Company, J. F. Thomas; Salamander Fire Co. (Col.), Charles Blachledge; Volunteer Fire Co., T. W. Hoyt; Dibble Fire Co., Sylvester Dibble

Had 135 volunteers, three horses, one steamer, three hand engines, one hose wagon, four hand hose carts, one extension ladder truck.

Wilmington (pop. 20,000?)

Fire department not listed in directory.

Had paid fire department with 32 men, 13 horses, three steamers, three hose wagons, one chemical engine, one ladder truck, and one reserve steamer in 1904.

Wilson (pop. 3,525)

Fire Dept. - B. T. Amerson

Had 50 volunteers, one steamer, three hose carts, and one ladder truck in 1903.

Winston (pop. 16,000?)

Supt. of Fire Dept. - Lewis Evans, Chief Engineer

Fire Companies - H. L. Reggins, Chief; S. J. Lamb, Capt. No. 1; J. B. Mccrary, Asst. Chief, Capt. No. 2.

Had 85 volunteers, four paid drivers, two paid engineers, five horses on duty, four horses reserve, two steamers, two ladder trucks, two hose wagons, two hose reels in reserve in 1900.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

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

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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