

Good Ladders

03/20/10 42 W, 1 I - + 10 - 4

Deployed on Colby Drive by Ladder 2 and photographed by Lee Wilson. That's Thursday morning's apartment fire, and which a reader observes is a great example of good ground ladder placement. [See more photos](#). Click to enlarge:



Lee Wilson photo

Outstanding! I foresee this pic to be included in a power-point presentation in the near future :D .

Silver - 03/20/10 - 10:37

I work in the area, this looked from the outside at least like a good job all around. I was outside when the first units rolled up/by (E11, L2, E15, R1). Went back upstairs to try to spot precisely where the fire was and by the time I got there the smoke color was already lighter and L2 was up. By the time I got back from lunch units were freeing up, saw E11 heading back toward capital on a call, hope whoever they were going to see didnt complain about smelling of smoke.

RaleighRes - 03/20/10 - 23:35

It's great to finally see the aggressive truck company ops. Keep up the good work now only to get the rest of the area onboard. Great job guys

PGtruckie - 03/21/10 - 02:02

Ground ladder deployment should be a sign of an aggressive RIT.

RescueRanger - 03/21/10 - 10:07

PGTruckie, will you please enlighten those which choose to re-invent the wheel? PG (as well as D.C.) has one of the most aggressive truck company programs around, especially when it comes to throwing ground ladders, based on many years of tradition. Fill those in on what a truck crew does on a bread and butter job so it's not just coming from me.

R.I.T. isn't a working crew RR. I know if I go down, I'd prefer R.I.T. to be standing fast and awaiting notification. If R.I.T. is "aggressive" as you say, and an activation goes out, they have to re-assemble, some will have to catch their breath, then formulate a plan. So now, you're delaying a rescue of one of our own. This is one crew on the fireground that shouldn't be "working", per se. Yes, the Officer should perform a R.I.T. size up to determine where crews are working and such, and the personnel should assemble tools (and hoseline if needed), but, the crew should not be working. Our head Administrator shares the same feelings and has been very adamant about it. If the R.I.T. is having to work, then their is a lack of resources on the scene and more help should be called to maintain the R.I.T.

Throwing ground ladders is a "special service" function, and SHOULD be accomplished by the Ladder and/or Rescue Company. If they aren't doing it, then they aren't doing their job, plain and simple. Your more aggressive Ladders in the city have proven it time and time again, all four sides can be laddered by two aggressive truckies. I suggest you check out, maybe re-read, the "Ladder Company Operations Powerpoint", now in "pdf" form for your viewing pleasure on the rfdweb. This will eventually become policy at the RFD. Either you're on board, or ummmmmmm.....

Silver - 03/21/10 - 11:41

Silver and DJ...

I'm an EMS-er by trade, but I'm trying to get my Firefighter and actually know what I'm doing when I'm done. Do you have any insights that could help me to relate what I've learned and seen with what you guys do on a scene? Also, know where I can get the best training for someone who hasn't been hired by a FD and can't afford to go through a good academy?

If you guys can help (hell, anyone is welcome to offer insight), please either comment here, or e-mail me. I'll happily give contact info if asked.

Chris

CJS ([Email](#)) - 03/21/10 - 15:57

Well CJS, there are a few ways to accomplish this. One is to get on with a vollie department, then take classes. The other, is to APPLY, APPLY, APPLY to the agencies which put you through an academy. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Listen to the guys that have been doing this for a while, but pick them wisely. Some are grouchy and miserable with their lives and will just bring you down, while others have something to contribute and will help you learn.

After the first step, I recommend venturing out to FDIC and Firehouse Expo for some great training, from instructors all over the nation. They definitely put an interesting perspective on things and open your eyes to new concepts/ideas. Great training, combined with solid experience is invaluable. Just be sure that experience level isn't, for example, fifteen years equal to one year, served fifteen times.

Silver - 03/21/10 - 16:26

Hey Silver, do me a favor and e-mail me. I would love to discuss this further, but it doesn't need to go on the blog.

CJS ([Email](#)) - 03/21/10 - 16:59

PGtruckie- Some of the "rest" of the area has been up to speed on truck work for a while now. It seems Raleigh is only know catching on.

Really - 03/22/10 - 15:27

Easy Mr. Anonymous, we've come a long way; so quick to criticize when you remain nameless.

Silver ([Email](#)) - 03/22/10 - 17:22

Mr. Anonymous, that "REALLY" just happened. You just got broke down.

Ha Ha - 03/22/10 - 17:36

Not wanting to start anything by no means but what part of the county has been up to speed with truck work. Please enlighten me. As far as I've seen the only areas that are very aggressive special service crews are cities such as Charlotte, Durham, and Fayetteville. Not stepping on toes by no means just fill me in. And silver your very right as far as engine and truck ops go for up this way. The way to be an aggressive special service crew depends on how aggresive the dept themselves are. The best thing I could say for special services is to remember the acronym LOVERS-U. When you break that down you define what a truck co and squad co are suppose to do. Ladders Overhaul Ventilation Extension Rescue Search and Utilites. Perform the job right or don't bother coming if your the truck do truck work. Your the engine do engine work. And for RIT your absolutely right the crew needs to be ready to jump when command says jump. No telling how many lives have been saved by companies that train hard on RIT and are ready to go at a moments notice. Our bread and butter house fire gets somewhere around 200' of ground ladders and a dedicated RIT group(one engine and one special service) . Once again I'm so damn proud to see Raliegh coming around as a aggressive department. Keep up the great work YOUR BROTHER FROM THE NORTH

PGtruckie - 03/23/10 - 01:45

Hey PG, email me...

Silver ([Email](#)) - 03/23/10 - 04:24

hey silver. where is the ladder company operations PDF? i can't seem to find it.....

C. Laird ([Email](#)) - 03/23/10 - 08:27

If you're an RFD member, head to the rfdweb. Look on the right hand side of the screen, I believe the title is "Ladder Company Operations". It's right there on the home screen of rfdweb for your viewing pleasure.

Silver - 03/23/10 - 09:40

o ok. im not a member yet (hopefully in the future), so im guessing that means its not out for the general public. thanks anyway!

C. Laird ([Email](#)) - 03/23/10 - 09:46

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

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

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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