

Raleigh's Largest Commercial and Industrial Fires of Last Decade?

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How many big commercial and industrial fires has the city seen in the last decade? The [Penmarc Drive mystery photo](#) inspired some thinking on that. Below is take one on such list. Your Historian started with all two- and three-alarm building fires since January 1, 2000. Plus ConAgra. Exclude some big non-structural fires. Electrical substations. Tankers on Beltline.

Deleted all single- and multi-family dwellings. Deleted dormitories, but retained other educational buildings, like Reynolds Coliseum. Remember that one? Also deleted a few two-alarms where the companies were quickly returned to service. The results are below. Just over two-dozen over eleven years years. Three-alarms in bold. Next question, what's missing?

- 9/6/2000. 105 (113?) S. Wilmington Street. Two-story masonry building, 80 years old. Restaurant downstairs, apartment upstairs. Two alarms, plus special call for Truck 1. Three aerial streams! Dispatched 5:25 a.m. Crews on scene through that afternoon.
- 4/13/2001. 2901 Trawick Road. Roller-skating rink. Commercial / Entertainment. One-story building. Two alarms. Truck 15 (snorkel?) special called. Fire in rear-storage room found. Difficult to control due to building design and caution due to steel-beam roof. Dispatched about 4:40 p.m. Controlled 5:52 p.m.
- 9/21/2001. 3461 Sumner Boulevard. Triangle Town Center. Two alarms. Burning materials on roof under construction. Aerial streams used to extinguish. Dry hydrants found. County units called for manpower and water supply. Ten tankers and pumper-tankers respond. Dispatched about 8:45 a.m. Controlled about 10:10 a.m.
- 10/22/2002. 5720-L Capital Boulevard. Nail salon. Two alarms. Interior destroyed, smoke damage to businesses on both sides. Dispatched 12:40 a.m.
- 10/23/2002. 1305 E. Millbrook Road. Quail Corners Shopping Center. Two alarms. Fire contained to attic space over business. Two prior multi-alarm fires in 1998.
- 10/24/2002. 1400 S. Blount Street. Cargill plant. Two alarms. Top of grain-dryer fully involved. Two aerial streams for suppression and exposures. Two trains stopped, but third allowed to pass during operations. Dispatched about 10:00 p.m.
- **3/1/2003. 2815 Capital Boulevard. Old Holiday Inn. Three alarms. Heavy fire in first and second-story of two-story hotel addition. Dispatched 8:42 p.m.**
- 4/22/2003. North Carolina State University. D.H. Hill Library. Two alarms. Fire in first-floor food court. Contained to ground floor kitchen. Dispatched 3:36 a.m.
- **8/22/2003. 201 Penmarc Drive. Warehouse building. Three alarms.**
- 4/3/2004. S. Wilmington Street. Adult bookstore. Two alarms.
- 4/17/2004. 9530 Lumley Road. Abandoned warehouse. Two alarms. Airport units first on scene. Fire through roof on arrival. Dispatched about 4:00 p.m. Controlled about 4:30 p.m.
- 7/8/2004. 6600 Glenwood Avenue. Wal-Mart Garden Center. Two alarms. Dispatched 1:12 a.m. Controlled 2:04 a.m.
- 8/17/2004. 214 E. Martin Street. Greenshields Pub. Two alarms. One-story historic City Market building. Built 1914. Dispatched 2:02 a.m. Controlled 4:28 a.m.
- 11/12/2004. 1400 Diggs Drive. Storage facility. Two alarms. Four storage units involved on arrival. Eight to 10 storage units eventually involved. At least one person living in a storage unit. Dispatched 1:49 a.m. Controlled 3:12 a.m.

- 5/23/2005. 2411 Dunn Avenue. Reynolds Coliseum. Two alarms. Electrical fire from transformer spreads to two rooms, plus smoke damage through entire structure. Dispatched about 10:20 a.m. Controlled about 11:40 a.m.
- 8/9/2005. 3712 Overlook Road. Automobile repair shop. Two alarms. City and county units. Dispatched 9:43 p.m. Controlled 10:34 p.m.
- 11/6/2005. 5509 Homewood Banks Drive. Abandoned restaurant overlooking Crabtree Valley mall. Two alarms. Driveway length 1,000 feet to hydrant. Most companies staged on Blue Ridge Road. Two additional engines and mini-pumper called, in case fire extends to woods. Dispatched 3:11 a.m. Controlled 4:34 a.m.
- 7/27/2006. 2008 Poole Road. Florist. Two alarms. Dispatched 6:01 p.m. Controlled 6:38 p.m.
- 2/23/2007. 335 Sherwee Drive. Commercial building. Two alarms. Flooring company. Fire in rear of structure. Dispatched 7:51 p.m.
- 7/11/2007. 4806 Hargrove Road. Commercial building. Countertop supply company. Two alarms. Dispatched as fire alarm at 12:44 a.m. Controlled 2:11 a.m.
- **9/21/2008. 1022 Hammell Drive. Two-story concrete-block warehouse. Three alarms. Heavily portioned building. Three aerial streams. Four hydrants including 1,500-foot lay. Dispatched 5:34 p.m. Controlled 9:35 p.m.**
- 6/9/2009. 4851 Jones Sausage Road. ConAgra food processing plant. Explosions, fires, collapse. Garner and Raleigh units, plus Task Force 8 and extensive EMS response. Dispatched 11:30 a.m.
- 6/12/2009. 1316 S. Blount Street. One-story, wood-frame warehouse. Two alarms. Water pressure problems. Two aerial streams, plus deluge guns. Dispatched 1:30 a.m. Controlled about 4:00 a.m.
- 8/31/2009. 2408 Paula Street. Night club and restaurant. One-story metal building. Two alarms. Heavy fire through roof in rear. Dispatched 4:55 a.m. Controlled 5:44 a.m.
- 4/22/2010. 221 W. Milbrook Road. Two-story wood-frame medical office. Two alarms. Occurred at shift change. Dispatched 7:13 a.m. Controlled 7:49 a.m.

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