

Wilmington's New Tiller

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The Wilmington Fire Department will soon be taking delivery of a new Truck 1, a 2014 Pierce Velocity PUC, 1500/300/100-foot. Here's a factory photo from the Pierce Flickr page. This is the city's third tiller, after a 1917 American LaFrance Type 17-4 (#1493, 75-foot) and a 1963 Seagrave seen in this [prior posting](#). (Model? Number? Full historical fleet listing?)

This also makes the fourth (correct?) tiller in service in our state, after High Point (2004 Pierce), Raleigh (2010 Pierce), and Cornelius-Lemley in Mecklenburg County (1989 Seagrave, ex-Richmond, ex-Bedford, VA). There are also two tillers operating in South Carolina, in Charleston (2013 Pierce) and Hilton Head (Crimson).

[See larger versions](#) of this factory photo or drawings of the rig from this [prior posting](#).



The rig arrived at Atlantic Emergency Solutions in Fayetteville on Wednesday, and Lee Wilson took a trip to take some photos. The 63 foot-long (!) truck will be appearing on the show floor at the South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo in Raleigh next week. [See more photos from Lee](#), including shots of that cool pump panel behind a compartment door.



Lee Wilson photo

Mike...which station will receive the new tiller? Been determined yet?

Buckwheat - 07/18/14 - 12:22

That's a long damn truck. As I understand it a main point of a tiller is to be more maneuverable in tight quarters, but surely you lose that at some point when the truck gets too long?

Paul - 07/18/14 - 16:22

Buckwheat, the tiller for now at least is going to be at headquarters downtown (station 1).

MCNelson - 07/18/14 - 17:54

Isn't this about the same length as Raleigh's current tiller?

Katie - 07/19/14 - 12:59

How many of those tillers in North and South Carolina have tank/pumps on them? Also heard that the new Raleigh tiller might not have a pump on it. Any truth to this?

BuiesCreek ([Web Site](#)) - 07/21/14 - 14:45

@ Buies, no...although it was considered.

RFDer - 07/23/14 - 17:45

Two part question

What's everyone's take on aerials with and without tank/pumps? I know that this is a hot topic for some as they believe truck companies shouldn't have them and I know that others believe every truck should have a pump and tank. Just trying to see what the bulk of us think. I can see both sides of the picture. If you are a small or rural department a pump is nice so that you can operate on your own but if you have six staffed engines coming to a fire I could see not needing one. What about the new DOI requirements of 32' from ground to roof requiring a ladder company to respond? How does everyone feel about aerials on house fires?

BuiesCreek ([Web Site](#)) - 07/24/14 - 12:26

An aerial or service company is a must on house fires. As far as a [ump it truly depends on the department and how they run. I prefer no pump and tank because the aerials run extrication and rescue calls.

GaFirefighter - 07/24/14 - 20:11

@Buies...I think it becomes relative to what your protection area requires. I guess it is easier to justify a quint for a smaller or isolated community, when that unit is may have a higher susceptibility to serving a dual engine/ladder role. I personally lean towards not having the pump and tank for several reasons. Reduction in weight and increases in compartment space being a few. Also having the pump means having one more system on the vehicle that requires maintenance/testing, and/or could potentially fail. I will admit that there will be people who will disagree with my opinion, and that's fine. The most common reason, among others, I have been given in bay floor discussion to counter my opinion is that during master stream operations, you tie up another engine company. I will concede that I have participated in a blitz attack using a aerial master stream and tank water on a two story residence and it was quite effective. I do not intend on discrediting their opinions, as I think they also have a point of view that is founded in their person experiences. As I said earlier, if you are looking to purchase, seriously consider the role the truck will play and spec with that in mind. Some departments purchase these trucks only with their ISO rating in mind, and not actually purchasing a truck to meet the community's/department's needs.

As far as having a tank and pump on everything, Would not the same apply to rescues? Just a thought....and I know I'm reaching on that and somebody is probably going to call me out.....

As far as the new DOI/ISO rule, that is a new one to me. But my organization responds ladders to all structural events already, so I doubt it carries the importance here that it would for a department that does not have a ladder.

As far as how I feel about having ladders on all house fires, I think you would be pleasantly surprised how beneficial it would be if you did. I'm sure you've heard the "better to have and not need, than to need and not have" speech before.

PBM - 07/25/14 - 14:24

I'll say that when I was on ladder 3 (which has pump/tank), we tested flow rates with running the aerial master stream off our own pump fed by a hydrant and being fed by an engine using the rear inlet (pump bypassed). Full flow could not be achieved with the engine doing all the pumping. We had to use our pump. If you are going to put a nozzle on an aerial, you need to have a pump. Period. The tank **could** be optional I suppose, but we had conducted training exercises showing that even though a 3-500 gal. tank won't last very long at all, it was beneficial to have it in certain circumstances.

I agree with GaFirefighter on having aerials at house fires. Why would you NOT want one?? Our aerials run extrications/rescues just fine with pumps and tanks on board.

Oh, and I've also been first-in on a house fire on the ladder. It was an exterior fire. We pulled a speedlay and kept the damage to the outside. Our station-sharing engine was out on another call so we were closest.

Bob - 07/26/14 - 18:08

The area i grew up in Western NY didnt have ariel ladders Now a few volunteere departments do have them.Probably when there is a house fire they would be helpful

Richard Errol Clark ([Email](#)) - 05/04/19 - 15:37

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