North Carolina Fallen Firefighter Data

08/03/14 342 W - **+** 5 - 6

Let's play with some data, working with names listed on the North Carolina Fallen Firefighters memorial. See prior posting for that list. See my database, which expands that information to include county, cause of death, and more.

By year, highest count:

- 2008, 2006 - 11 each
- 2012 - 10
- 2007 - 9
- 2003 - 8
- 1973, 1982, 1989, 2013 - 7 each

By department, highest count:

- Charlotte - 12
- NC Forestry - 11
- Winston-Salem - 7
- Wilmington - 7
- Asheville, National Spinning Company, NC Air National Guard, Rocky Mount, Salisbury, Shelby - 4 each

By county, highest count:

- Mecklenburg - 17
- Forsyth - 13
- Wake - 11
- Cumberland - 10
- New Hanover 9

By cause death you ask?

That one's going to be tricky. In my database, I've assigned categories of cause of death, where known. This is based on narrative information that I've collected and/or the certificate of death. The labels are totally subjective and not even entirely consistent. Let me include all of them, and let readers slice and dice the data as desired. Some could be combined, others perhaps re-labeled. Though it seems pretty clear that cardiac and MVA are the historically top causes of death.

- Asphyxia - 10
- Burns - 8
- Burns? - 4
- Cardiac - 76
- Cardiac/MVA - 2
- Drowning - 3
- Electrocution - 7
- Explosion - 2
- Fall - 6
- Fall from ladder - 1
- Fall from vehicle - 1
- Gunshot - 2
- MVA - Air - 13
- MVA - Road - 56
- MVA - Water - 1
- Medical - 6
- Medical/CVA - 2
- Medical/Collapsed - 12
- Medical/Heart - 8
- Medical/Illness - 1
- Struck by Horse - 1
- Struck by object - 2
- Struck by tree - 3
- Struck by utility pole - 1
- Struck by vehicle - 6
- Structural Collapse - 13
- Trauma - 2

Career versus volunteer?

Where known, out of 252 out of the 258:

- Career - 107 (42%)

- Volunteer - 146 (58%)

Other errata:

- Earliest year of a recorded fatality? 1902.
- Oldest known age? 76
- Youngest age? 18
- Number of Fire Chiefs? 21 (at least)
- Number of women? Six
- Number of African-Americans? Seven[1]

[1]Racial data of mine is presently limited to "white" and "black." And for only 221 of the 258 names. This could be better researched, to be sure. Thinking some American Indian heritage is in there, for starters.

Hmm. Initial thought is you could consolidate all "Struck by" (excluding vehicle) into 1 category, since there's not a large sample set of data to work with.
And what's the difference between 'Cardiac', 'Medical/CVA' and 'Medical/Heart' ?
Paul - 08/04/14 - 14:27

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