

**UPDATED - Five Alarms in Charlotte - Details and Data**

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Five alarms were struck in Charlotte on Wednesday at a cardboard recycling facility. (And following a three-alarm church fire over the prior night, no less!) The incident was ably covered by both local media and [FireNews.net via Twitter](#).

Additional incident details were gleaned from assorted Facebook pages and conversations in the Carolinas Fire Page Yahoo group, including a run card provided by Hunter Lacy.

**Run Card**

First Alarm	15:32 hours	BC01, E05, E31, L18
Working Fire	15:46	BC06, E18, R10
Second Alarm	15:46	BC05, E02, E11, E08, L02
Special	15:59	Rehab
Special	16:03	BC03
Third Alarm	16:04	BC04, E30, E06, E17, E03, L01
Fourth Alarm	16:30	BC07, E04, E16, E27, L04
Special	16:38	Field Comm
Special	17:05	BR05
Fifth Alarm	17:18	E26, E40, E07, L13

Also dispatched or responded: Fire Investigators, Fire Prevention, Emergency Management, Logistics, etc.

FireNews.net also reported a special alarm around 4:20 p.m. for two engines and a ladder. Unable to validate, may have been a request that was fulfilled as part of the fourth alarm.

**Incident Details**

- Carastar Recovered Fiber
- 2426 Chamberlain Avenue
- Two structures on site.
- Warehouse with 14,416 square feet, one-story, metal.
- Warehouse with 7,200 square feet, one-story, metal.
- Plus concrete slab, site of earlier building since demolished.



- Dispatched 3:31 p.m.
- Controlled 8:34 p.m.
- Five alarms and over 200 Charlotte firefighters and personnel.
- Overhaul operations continued into next day.
- Likely every engine and ladder company rotated through scene, in the 24 hours after dispatch.
  
- Originally dispatched as dumpster fire
- Arriving units found large outside fire.
- Exposures included structures, trailers, and 500 pound propane tank.
  
- Five ladders operating master streams, along with deluge guns, mostly mounted on engines.
- Ladder 2 and Ladder 18 were threatened by advancing fire at one point, with crews defending in place.
- Water supply issues were ongoing, and local hydrant pressure increased in the neighborhood.
- Relay pumping utilized. (How many hydrants? Longest supply line stretch?)
- Electric power was interrupted to the entire neighborhood, as the incident site was large and with multiple electrical services. Police conducted welfare checks of residents, who didn't have access to air conditioning or fans. None found needing assistance.
  
- Extreme heat conditions, with temperatures reaching 99 degrees that day.
- MEDIC took active role in firefighter medical evaluations, and were checked every time they entered rehab.
- Multiple rehab stations set up.
- Firefighters also evaluated for CO levels before leaving scene.
- Thirty-six firefighters were given IVs to treat dehydration.
- Three firefighters transported for CO exposure. They were released and can return to full duty.
- Red Cross also provided scene support.
  
- Fire started when a machine created a spark.
- Smoke billowed into pillar reaching at least 10,000 feet high.
- Smoke column also visible on Doppler weather radar.

Though Charlotte has had four- and five-alarm fires in recent decades, this may be the first instance where all companies through the fifth alarm were committed for a length of time versus quickly returned to service.

### More Company Information

FireNews.net is compiling incident information in this [Facebook posting](#), with apparatus and unit information and other details including:

- Engines - 17
- Ladders - 6
- Rescues - 1
- Battalion Chiefs - 5
- Cars - 14
- Special units - Rehab, field communications (2), mobile command post, fuel truck, brush truck.
- [See posting](#) for company and unit numbers, and dispatch order.
- By fifth alarm, EMS presence included five ambulances, mass casualty bus, and several supervisors. Plus a city bus. Plus mule, for shuttling patients between the two busses.
- By Thursday morning, six engines and three ladders were working.
- Coverage during incident included Harrisburg FD (Cabarrus) covering Station 35, Long Creek FD covering Station 18, and Huntersville FD covering Long Creek FD.
- CFD Battalion 8 also activated, an additional Battalion Chief to help cover the city, while six of the seven on-duty BCs were at the fire scene. Battalion 2 does not appear to have been dispatched to the incident.

Readers, what can you add to the FireNews information? Head over [to the posting](#) and add your info.

### Sources

- [Charlotte Observer](#)
- [FireNews.net on Twitter](#)
- [FireNews.net Facebook posting](#)
- [IAFF Charlotte Firefighters Facebook page](#)
- [WBTB](#)
- [WCNC](#)
- [WSCO](#)
- [WXII](#)

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