

Glenwood Towers First Fire Alarm Circa 1971

07/23/15 223 W, 1 I - + 11 - 4

For your Thursday evening enjoyment comes this vintage photo, circa 1971. Was the first fire alarm at 509 Glenwood Avenue, e.g. Glenwood Towers. High-rise apartment building for seniors and the destination of Engine 5 and Engine 13 and too many other red trucks for the last forty-five years. Fire alarms, fire alarms, and more fire alarms. Plus many medical calls and even the occasional working fire. (We answered a reader question about that, [back in September 2012](#).)

What do you see in the picture? Looks like Engine 5 in the foreground, one of two 1961 American LaFrance 900 Series pumpers. (But not the surviving one that's currently owned by the Raleigh Fire Museum.) Behind the engine is a foam unit, probably Foam 5. That's a 1965 International Harvester D1200 pick-me-up truck with a Kidde high-expansion foam generator. One of two such units in the fire department.

In the background is either Engine 1 or Engine 15, which was the second engine at Station 1. Both were 1970 Mack CF pumpers, the first two of those in the city. Also pictured are a pair of ambulances. Most likely Beacon Ambulance Service. Pretty cool picture and was scanned from a nifty booklet published by the Raleigh Housing Authority in 2013, titled *75 Years of Building Communities*. What's the exact date of this image? We'll see if we can find it. Click to enlarge:



Looks like E3 in the foreground to me. On a side note E13 went there yesterday 5 times!

Rescue Ranger - 07/24/15 - 11:54

What was the standard response for a fire alarm in the early 70s? Any prior posts about how fire alarm responses have changed over the years in Raleigh?

Chris - 07/27/15 - 11:19

I don't know if the photo can be cleaned up to distinguish the number on the side of the pumper in the foreground to tell if it's a 3 or a 5. But I will state this morning a high-rise fire dispatch was banged out for 509 Glenwood ave. consisting of E13, E1, E5, E3, E6, L4, L2, R1, B3, B5, A1, C20, C401, & C420. The order of arrival will probably surprise you! E3, E13, E5, E1, L2, L4, C401 E6, B3, B5, C420, C20, R1, & A1. That's right, E3 was 1st-in so in might very well be E3 in the picture.

Rescue Ranger - 07/28/15 - 12:12

Closer view of the emblem:



Legeros - 07/28/15 - 19:07

Chris, alas, I don't have a ready answer to question, about the standard response in the 1970s, or its evolution over time.

Let me see if I can dig that out, some time.

Legeros - 07/29/15 - 07:58

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