



Fire Expo Returns to Raleigh

The North Carolina State Firemen’s Association and the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs opened their annual convention at the Raleigh Convention Center on Wednesday, August 19. The Capitol City last hosted the event, now named the South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo, in 1973. Opening ceremonies on the first day featured the Raleigh Fire Department Honor Guard, which were followed by business meetings. State Fire Marshal Wayne Goodwin cut a ceremonial ribbon that evening.



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Two Alarms on E. Millbrook

On Tuesday afternoon, September 15, Engine 9 arrived at 1005 E. Millbrook Road with heavy fire showing from a split-level residence. One subject was believed inside. A second alarm was quickly requested. Crews started an interior attack as well as primary searches. They were withdrawn within 20 minutes and a defensive attack was started. Ladder 1 provided an aerial stream.



Millbrook Road was closed in both directions, and two hydrants supplied apparatus. Additional companies were requested for personnel, and also relocated for coverage. Wake County EMS provided medical monitoring and rehab. Two firefighters were transported with minor injuries, and released that evening.



Several pets were rescued. One adult male was located and recovered that evening. Haz-Mat 2 was also called to assist. The cause was determined as an accidental gas explosion in the lower-level of the structure. Command was terminated at 11:18 p.m. See more photos at www.raleighfirenews.org. ■

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The Raleigh Fire Department served as host department, and members provided assistance on several fronts. During the loading of the Convention Center exhibit floor, personnel provided traffic control for incoming vehicles. Firefighters also assisted with preparing apparatus for entry, which included emptying water tanks.

Over 80 pieces of apparatus were displayed on the exhibit floor, along with dozens of booths. Raleigh firefighters staffed a fire department information booth, distributing job applications and raising money for charity by selling T-shirts and raffle tickets.



Two of the city's newest pieces of fire apparatus were displayed during the show: a 2009 Pierce Arrow XT aerial platform recently placed in service as Ladder 7, and a 2005 Volvo/2009 Hackney Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) unit. Friday concluded with a dance.



On Saturday morning, the North Carolina Association of Hazardous Materials Responders sponsored the annual Haz-Mat Challenge. The contest was conducted at a Lenoir Street parking lot, around the corner from the convention center. Eight teams from across the state competed in a series of timed evolutions, with penalties for incorrect techniques. Fayetteville's team scored first place, High Point's scored second, and Raleigh's team #1 scored third.



Also on Saturday morning, the first annual North Carolina Main Street Fire Truck parade proceeded down Fayetteville and Salisbury streets with the fire department's honor guard leading the way.



The Raleigh Fire Department presented two pieces of apparatus: Old Engine 4, a 1926 American LaFrance Type 75 pumper, and Engine 16, a 2007 Pierce Enforcer pumper. Capt. Gary Amato (left) and Capt. Wayland Holden (right) rode the restored engine.



Saturday concluded with one of the best attended banquets in recent memory. The South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo ended Sunday with a memorial service for fallen firefighters. Conference planners have committed to Raleigh as the event location for the next four years. The best is yet to come. ■

See more photos from Lee Wilson and Mike Legeros at www.raleighfirenews.org.

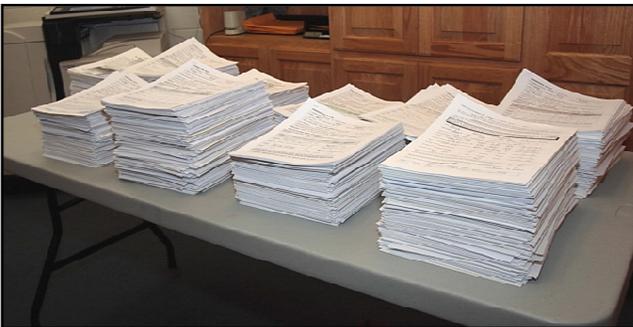
Ladder Overturns, Crew Okay



Ladder 4 overturned on July 10 at 10:50 a.m. while turning east from Dawson Street onto South Street. Four firefighters were aboard the apparatus, and three were transported to WakeMed. All were released that afternoon. The crew used their seat belts and everyone went home.

Fire Chief John McGrath said “We are so grateful that there were no serious injuries.” He is making the rounds to every station and sharing his feelings about safety with all crews. Ladder 4 was responding to a fire call at the time of the accident. The 2004 Pierce Arrow XT tiller was totaled and is planned for immediate replacement. ❖

Recruitment Update



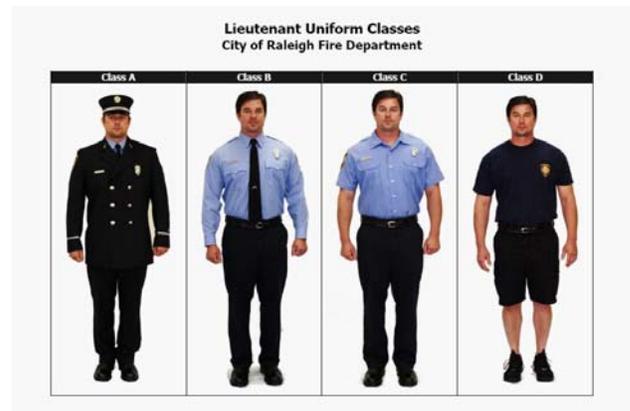
The recruitment process has started for the next fire academy. Applications were accepted for a six-week period ending August 28. The training center received a record 1,200 applications. In early September, applicants were invited to practice for the physical agility test. Written and physical agility tests started at the end of the month. Applicants will be further screened before oral interviews are scheduled. Recruit Academy 36 is tentative scheduled for early 2010. The final number of open positions is being determined. ❖

DOI Project Phase Done

The first phase of an extensive reworking of Department Operating Instructions (DOIs) was completed in June. The project was led by Capt. John Fanning from Training, and was based in the upstairs day room of Station 1. For a number of months, the cross-rank project team reviewed over 1,000 documents including DOIs, SOPs, SOGs, city ordinances and management policies, and General Statutes.

The changes were reviewed by command staff, and made effective earlier this year. They also crafted a number of new policies to be released at a later date, such as guidelines on Recruitment, Hiring and Training; Line of Duty Deaths; Funeral Procedures; and Severe Weather Operations. Remaining policies will be completed in the second and final phase of the project, tentatively scheduled for the end of the year.

Some of the documents include visual references, such as this page from the uniform policy. ❖



Station 1 Gets Generator

The multi-year project to install generators at all fire stations saw this addition in August at Station 1. Central Fire Station also received two new gas grills, and a new bench in the rear of the building. ■



Chief Johnson Nominated for First Responder Award

Wake County fire, EMS, and law enforcement personnel were honored at the second annual Wake County First Responder's Appreciation Breakfast on Monday, September 14. The event was held at North Ridge Country Club and organized by the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce.



Service awards were presented to Raleigh Fire and Police, Raleigh-Wake Communications, and Wake EMS and Sheriff's Office. The Hero of the Year Award was received by the Raleigh Police Department. Each agency nominated one person, and the Raleigh Fire Department nominated Battalion Chief Rob Johnson for his actions off-duty at a motor-vehicle accident on July 1, 2008.

Chief Johnson and his family were travelling through Asheville, on their way to a baseball event in Franklin, TN, when they and seven other vehicles were involved in a serious accident on Interstate 40. In a work zone at Exit 55, a tractor-trailer failed to reduce speed and struck a slower moving SUV, causing a chain reaction.

Chief Johnson and his family sustained only minor cuts and bruises, but several others were seriously injured. After securing his family, Chief Johnson attended to the other victims. He continues his story:

"The first vehicle I got to was the one struck by the vehicle that was pushed by the 18-wheeler. The car was on fire and on its side (passenger side up) with a one year-old child inside, and two women trying to get out. There was gasoline on the ground, under all of these vehicles, and we were all standing in the fuel because we had no choice.

"The windows on the car were up. One lady was pregnant and she was trying to open the window to get out. I asked bystanders to find a fire extinguisher, while I broke the glass. One of the panicking bystanders threw a metal extinguisher (attempting to get it to someone else) and struck me on the head as I was lifting the pregnant lady out of the car. The extinguisher hit the ground and broke, unfortunately discharging.

"I directed another civilian to keep working on the fire, and I continued assisting to get the second lady and

the one year-old out of the burning car. The child's car seat was entangled. I dropped a knife to the lady and instructed her to remove the one year-old and hand him up to me. He was not breathing. A civilian standing beside me said he knew CPR. I asked him to work on the one year-old, while I helped the second lady out of the car. The fire was extinguished and I moved to the next vehicle.

"The next vehicle that I checked was a Ford Escape, which took the initial impact in the rear by the 18-wheeler. There were two children (ages 3 and 11) in back seats that were rolled up against the front seats. The 11 year-old was trapped behind his grandmother, who was pinned in the passenger side. The three year-old was compressed (her chest) against the front seat of the driver (her mother). I felt and she was not breathing. She was also cyanotic.

"I removed the mother, who was in shock, and two bystanders helped move her away from the wreckage, so I could gain access to the three year-old. I pulled the front seat forward and cut the seat belt straps and removed the three year-old. Another civilian arrived as I placed the child on the ground. He said he could perform CPR.

"He began checking the three year-old, while I quickly checked the two still strapped in the vehicle. He confirmed that she was not breathing. I began mouth-to-mouth on the girl, and kept communication with the two trapped occupants until the fire and EMS units arrived.

"After EMS took my patient, I assisted the first fire unit by stretching a hose line, setting up Hurst equipment, and setting up extrication until more units arrived to assist them.

"The one year-old unfortunately passed away later in the day. The three year-old survived with chest injuries. My injuries were several cuts to my arms and legs (bled a lot, but not serious) and a stiff neck."

Chief Johnson is a native of Harnett County, where he lives with his wife and two sons. His personal interests include coaching baseball, basketball and soccer in community leagues. He joined the Raleigh Fire Department in 1989, after a short period of private sector employment, and four years of service in the Coast Guard. ■

Capt. A. C. Rich assisted with this story.

ISO Grading in September

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) visited Raleigh in September to evaluate the city's Public Protection Classification. This rating of Raleigh's fire suppression capabilities is used by insurance companies to help establish fair premiums for fire insurance. ISO staff evaluated three major areas: fire alarm and communication systems, the fire department, and water supply. The city is currently rated as Class 3. The rating scale is measured from 1 to 10, with Class 1 as the highest.



Staff Planner Allison Griffin served as coordinator and liaison with ISO. She relocated from her Dillon Building office to a Keeter Training Center classroom during this project. For months, she's been collecting and reviewing the necessary documents and data to assist the ISO reviewer. Light duty personnel were also assigned to the project.



Municipal fire protection grading dates to the early 1900s, when the National Board of Fire Underwriters developed the Municipal Inspection and Grading System after the great Baltimore fire of 1904. ❖

Ruling Affects Retirements

For decades, firefighters, police officers, and other city workers have been banking their extended sick leave

to apply toward retirement. In early September, the Department of the State Treasurer notified city officials that the practice is illegal. Any employee retiring after October 1 cannot apply sick leave to their total service time. The state made an exception for city workers already retired. After initially setting August 1 as the effective date, it extended the date for retirees in August and September. City and state officials are working to resolve this issue as quickly as possible. ❖

Offices Moving

Fire Administration and Fire Prevention are temporarily moving to new offices on October 5. They are relocating from the second floor of the Dillon Building at 310 W. Martin Street to mobile classrooms at the Keeter Training Center. After the move, renovations begin to expand and enhance the Dillon Building space. Renovations are expected to be completed around Christmas. When finished, the Asst. Chief of Operations and the Asst. Chief of Support Services will move in, along with Fire Administration and Fire Prevention. ❖

Deaths

Retired Capt. Roy Lee Strickland, 68, passed away in Smithfield on Friday, September 18. He retired in 1998 with 26.9 years of service. ■



Then & Now – 1973/2009

Here's a look at the Raleigh Fire Department in 1973, the last year the North Carolina State Firemen's Association held a convention in the Capitol City.

1973

Population – 131,056
Calls – 2,600
Personnel – 278
Stations – 11
Engines – 12
Ladders – 5
Rescues – 1
District Chiefs – 2
Budget – \$2,372,155

2009

Population – 385,507
Calls – 34,863 (2008)
Personnel – 568
Stations – 27
Engines – 28
Ladders – 8
Rescues – 3
Battalion Chiefs – 4
Budget – \$50,481,355



Photo Gallery



Recruit candidates practice physical agility testing at the Keeter Training Center.



A moment of silence is observed at Station 1 on September 11. *Raleigh Public Affairs photo.*



Commercial structure fire at 2408 Paula Drive on August 31. Two alarms with Engine 11-A first on scene.

SEE MORE PHOTOS AT:
WWW.RALEIGHFIRENEWS.ORG



Filling the Boot for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.



Engine 20-A on Interstate 40 on August 26.



Lt. Bart Travis leads EMT class at the training center.



Station 6 birthday party and open house on June 27.

Fire Stations Going Green

Environmental sustainability projects are underway at several Raleigh fire stations, including adding a “green roof” at Station 9. Vegetation was installed in September, following interior renovations to strengthen the building and support the weight of the plants. The “green roof” doubles as an above-ground garden, and will absorb about half of the rain it receives. By absorbing rain, it improves water quality by reducing runoff. The added insulation on the roof will also reduce energy costs at the fire station.



Another project partners the city and the county to sponsor twelve project locations to receive a network of cisterns, which will collect draining rainwater from rooftops. The collected water can be used for training or washing equipment, and reduces the demand on drinking water supplies.

Harvesting rainwater also decreases the volume of storm water runoff, which helps in other ways. Five project locations will also receive rain gardens. Those are mulched flower beds that further reduce storm water runoff.

Sites with cisterns and rain gardens are Stations 6, 22, 27, 28, and Wake EMS Station 8. Sites with cisterns only are Stations 8, 23, 24, 25, 26, Fuquay-Varina Station 3, and the Wake County Animal Shelter. ❖

Air Rescue Training Starting

The Raleigh Fire Department is going airborne! Fifteen firefighters begin training in November as a helicopter rescue team with the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. The Patrol is supplying both pilots and aircraft, with the fire department supplying personnel. The SHP Aviation Unit is located at 380 East Tryon Road.

North Carolina Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) Task Force 8 members will also be training as air rescue personnel. Four Raleigh firefighters, along with three from



Cary and two from Durham, will train as Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Technicians (HART) on Air National Guard Blackhawk helicopters based in Salisbury. ❖

Combat Fitness Challenge

Three teams of firefighters competed in a Combat Fitness Challenge at Lee Field at North Carolina State University on Sep. 19. Sponsored by the US Marine Corps, the event consisted of



several physical events including fireman's carry, ammo can carry, and an 800-yard run. The three five-member teams competed against three other local teams, including ROTC members.

The fire department took second, fourth, and fifth place. Capt. Kevin Coppage and Firefighters Jason Ceisner and Jason Hall finished second; Lt. Andrew Meier and Firefighters Marcus Horne, Joey McCarthy, Brian McGinnis, and Elliot Palmer finished fourth; and Firefighters Dena Ali, Kevin Boxberger, Kelly Lamotta, Maria Peterson, and Amber Wiggs finished fifth.



Pictured left to right are (back row) McCarthy, Boxberger, Hall, and Coppage; (middle row) Peterson, Lamotta, Ceisner, Meier, and McGinnis; (front row) Palmer, Ali, Horne, and Wiggs. ■

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AT: WWW.RALEIGHFIRENEWS.ORG

Fire Prevention Week Activities

Several events to educate residents on fire safety are planned for Fire Prevention Week, which begins Sunday, Oct. 4. This year's theme is *Stay Fire Smart, Don't Get Burned*. For the annual display at Crabtree Valley Mall, the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center has partnered with the Raleigh Fire Department to provide staff and a display. Also during the week, engine and ladder companies are delivering fire safety presentations to a number of groups.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

OPEN HOUSE AT ALL FIRE STATIONS, 2:00 TO 5:00 P.M.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

HOME FIRE DRILL AT THE RESIDENCE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8 - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

FIRE SAFETY DISPLAY AT CRABTREE VALLEY MALL.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PINK HEALS TOUR RALEIGH STOP

TRIANGLE TOWN CENTER, 12:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.
OCTOBER 4

MONTHLY RETIREE BREAKFAST

PAM'S RESTAURANT, 5111 WESTERN BOULEVARD, 7:30 A.M.
OCTOBER 13

NOVEMBER 10

DECEMBER 8

RETIREE CHRISTMAS PARTY

WAKE COUNTY SHRINE CLUB, 6015 LEAD MINE ROAD, 6:00 P.M.
DECEMBER 8

CORRECTIONS

In the last issue's Family Tree, retired Asst. Chief **Kenneth Lane** and former member **George Lane** were incorrectly listed as brothers. They are not related. Also, in the Honor Guard article, Capt. **Dean Taylor (22-B)** was inadvertently omitted from the list of current members. ■

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

THE RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER IS A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR PERSONNEL, RETIREES, AND CITIZENS. THE EDITOR IS HISTORIAN MIKE LEGEROS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT fdnews@legeros.com. MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT, VISIT THE WEB SITE www.raleigh-nc.org/fire. ■

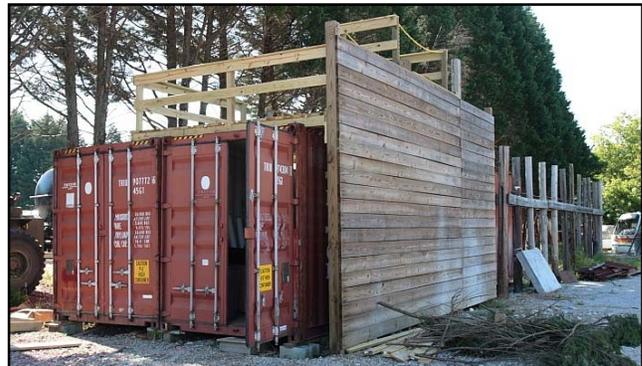
Retiree Christmas Party



Mark your calendar for the annual retiree Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 8, at the Wake County Shrine Club, 6015 Lead Mine Road. Social hour is 6:00-7:00 p.m., with dinner to follow. The cost is \$20.00 per person. Capt. Al Moore (ret.) is again collecting payments.

Please send payments, with checks made to Al Moore, 6500 Secret Drive, Raleigh, NC, 27612. His telephone number is 919-848-1685. Guests are welcome and at the same price. ❖

Training Center Changes



A climbing wall and observation deck has been added to the USAR area on the lower grounds of the training center. A heavy lifting and moving prop is also being built, which will consist of a road tractor and fuel tanker that can be utilized both upright and on its side. The prop is for haz-mat, rescue, and USAR training.

Vehicle and equipment shelters have also been added to the USAR grounds. There's even a guard dog on the premises. A black mixed-breed has been adopted by the training center staff. She's friendly, at times shy, and her name is Keeter. ■

