



# Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter



Volume 5, Issue 1

Winter 2011

## New Mechanics at Services

Two new mechanics have been hired, Jimmy Britt and Jason Baker. Britt comes from R.W. Moore Equipment Company. He's a veteran of the U.S. Navy, and a former part-time instructor in the diesel repair program at Wake Technical Community College. Baker comes from Cooper Kenworth Trucks and has extensive knowledge in diesel engine repair and diagnostics.



The apparatus maintenance staff now numbers six. The other mechanics are Supervisor Richard Spangler, Travis Meneges, Jamie Powell, and Steve Wagner.

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## Two Alarms at Metal Plant



On Saturday, December 18, Engine 23 arrived at a one-story metal industrial building at 8900 Midway West Road off Westgate Road. Smoke was showing from the 47,225 square-foot metal fabrication facility. Raleigh and Durham Highway crews entered the structure and found machinery on fire. The working fire was upgraded to a major working fire about five minutes into the incident and a second alarm was automatically dispatched.



Engine 23 was positioned closer to the building, along with Ladder 6, which deployed for roof access. Engine 24 provided relay pumping from a hydrant several hundred feet from the scene. The fire was controlled in about an hour, with damage contained to a small portion of the building. The cause was determined as accidental, caused by hot metal shavings from a grinder. See more photos at [www.raleighfirenews.org](http://www.raleighfirenews.org). ■

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Front line apparatus was kept in service 90.2% of the time July through September, say Asst. Chief of Services Bert Richards. "This should increase in the fourth quarter of the year, due to the increased maintenance staff."



## Apparatus and Facility Updates

The new tiller was placed in service on November 22 as Ladder 4 at Station 1. The 2010 Pierce Arrow XT tractor-drawn aerial ladder was delivered in July.

One of the three 1989 Pierce Arrow pumpers has been sold to Fort Valley Public Safety in Fort Valley, GA. The other two were recently assigned to the Training Division. The 1990 Spartan aerial ladder will be sold soon.

The planning process has started for a 50 by 60-foot apparatus storage building at the Support Services Center at 4120 New Bern Avenue. The four-bay facility, likely prefabricated, will be utilized to house reserve units and apparatus waiting to be serviced.



The fire department's reserve fleet presently consists of nine engines, three aerial platforms, and one res-

cue. A total of 62 vehicles are assigned to the Services Division, ranging from inspector's vehicles to dump trucks.

Bids have been awarded from construction of generators at fire stations 11, 16, 20, and 22. This is part of a multi-year project to equip all fire stations with emergency power.

The second round of lighting upgrades will start with stations 3 and 11, and continue until all fire stations are finished. The new fixtures use less energy and produce higher output.

Station 29 is in the pre-design phase with Williard Ferm Architects of Raleigh. They designed the city's prior three fire station facilities, Stations 26, 27, and 28. ❖



## Operations Updates

Five-inch hydrant assist valves have been purchased for all engine and ladder companies. The valves will allow in-line pressure boosting for such situations as low hydrant pressure or a long supply line lay. The valves will save time in such situations since the first supply hose can remain connected and charged while the second supply hose is connected to the valve.



Operational procedures and a training program are being developed. Three-inch hydrant valves were utilized in earlier decades, prior to the conversion of five-inch supply hose.

Training started in early 2011 for new operational procedures for engine companies, and continues for ladder and rescue companies on their new operational procedures.

Two project teams have been working since 2009. Their goals are to develop operational continuity between all engine companies, and between all ladder and rescue companies.

Twenty-four probationary firefighters were added to the ranks in December. They place the total personnel in the Operations Division at 514 including three Division Chiefs, 12 Battalion Chiefs, 108 Captains, 123 Lieutenants, and 269 Firefighters. ■

## Fire Academy Graduation



Fire Academy #36 graduated on December 17, in a ceremony at the Raleigh Convention Center. The 24 probationary firefighters completed a 28-week fire academy conducted at the Keeter Training Center. Certified as North Carolina Firefighter I & II and Emergency Medical Technicians, they filled vacant positions.

Four are second- and third-generation members of the Raleigh Fire Department. William B. Dillard is the son of Capt. Bill Dillard. James D. Poole is the son of Asst. Chief Danny Poole. Walter F. Warner is the son of Asst. Chief Frank Warner. Christopher Hodges is the son of Capt. Craig Hodges, and grandson of retired Capt. Jerry Hodges.

See more photos at [www.raleighfirenews.org](http://www.raleighfirenews.org).

## New Employees

Mechanic James L. Britt Jr. was hired November 1.  
Mechanic Jason A. Baker was hired November 15.

## Promotions & Appointments

### January 1

Lt. Brian V. Pearce to Captain  
Lt. Mark A. Stone to Captain  
Senior Firefighter Christopher K. Marshburn to Lieutenant  
Senior Firefighter James C. Williams to Lieutenant

### December 4

Lt. James H. Hill to Captain  
Lt. Kenneth C. Ray to Captain  
Senior Firefighter Michael F. Kemmeries to Lieutenant  
Senior Firefighter John R. Mitchell to Lieutenant  
Senior Firefighter Patrick W. Murphy to Lieutenant

## Retirements

Capt. S. Marshall Baker retired January 1 with 28.1 years of service. He began working for the fire department in November 1982.



Capt. James R. Barnes retired January 1 with 28.1 years of service. He began working for the fire department in November 1982.



Capt. Percy V. Evans retired December 1 with 29.7 years of service. He began working for the fire department in April 1981.



Capt. Charles E. Jones retired December 1 with 28 years of service. He began working for the fire department in November 1982.



Lt. Leigh T. Merchant retired December 1 with 30.6 years of service. He began working for the fire department in May 1980.



## Deaths

Retired Capt. Danny L. Thornton, 66, died in Raleigh on Tuesday, October 26. He retired in 1996 with 27.7 years of service.



### Do you have an e-mail address?

Retired members, please help reduce mailing costs by receiving these newsletters via e-mail.

Send your e-mail address to  
[EDITOR@RALEIGHFIRENEWS.ORG](mailto:EDITOR@RALEIGHFIRENEWS.ORG)

You can also access current and back issues at [www.raleighfirenews.org](http://www.raleighfirenews.org)

## Photo Gallery



Ladder 5 assisted Bay Leaf and Falls units at a motor vehicle accident on Honeycutt Road on December 26.



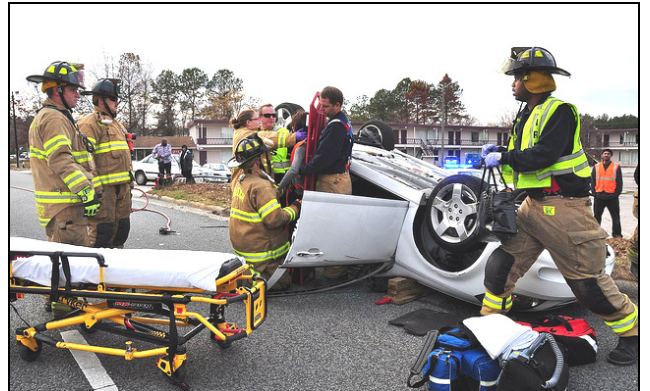
Two alarms were struck on Grinding Stone Drive for an apartment fire on December 22. Engine 19 was first on scene.



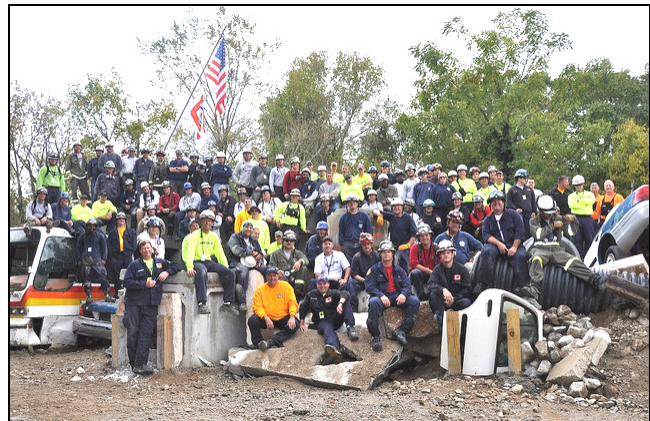
Physical agility and reading comprehension testing was conducted for about 500 applicants in December. Practice sessions, shown above, were also offered. Fire Prevention staff assisted Operations and Training personnel during the practice and actual testing. Fire Academy #37 is tentatively scheduled to start in December 2011.



Rescue 3 members chopped through ice to rescue a person stranded on a raft on a pond off Doverton Court on December 16. Engine 4, Ladder 3, and Battalion 4 also assisted with the rescue.



Motor vehicle accident on Capital Boulevard at Dennis Avenue on December 3.



On October 11-22, Task Force 8 taught a Structure Collapse Rescue Technician course at the Keeter Training Center. Sixty-five students attended from some 12 departments representing six NC USAR task forces. They were taught by 25 instructors with Task Force 8. The course was sponsored by North Carolina Emergency Management.

## Retiree Christmas Party

This year's retiree Christmas Party was held on Tuesday, Dec. 7 at the Wake County Shrine Club. Fifty retirees attended, plus widows, friends, and family members. See more photos on the newsletter web site, [www.raleighfirenews.org](http://www.raleighfirenews.org).



## MUSEUM ALMOST READY!



Work is nearly finished on the museum trailer at the Keeter Training Center. New furnishings include a display wall around the 1870 alarm bell built by Thomas Johnson and other members of Station 23-B. New artifacts are being added and new wall photos are being printed. Plans for access include personnel attending EMT classes. They'll be given tours during breaks and after class. Watch for more information. ❖

## THE 1939 TILLER IN 1984



This is a new old picture of Raleigh's original tiller, a 1916/1939 American LaFrance photographed by Gary Knight behind Station 8 circa 1984. See larger version at [www.raleighfirenews.org](http://www.raleighfirenews.org). ❖

## OLD STUFF WANTED!

The Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society is collecting artifacts for the museum trailer. Recent additions include turnout gear donated by retired Lt. Creighton Edwards, early breathing apparatus from Lt. Bobby Edwards, and wheeled extinguishers from Station 2. To donate items, please contact Battalion Chief Alan Walters at Station 23, at 919-420-2395. His e-mail address is [luther.walters@raleighnc.gov](mailto:luther.walters@raleighnc.gov). ❖

## THREE GENERATIONS?

How many sets of grandfathers, fathers, and sons have served in the Raleigh Fire Department?

Henderson Taylor (1930-1941)

Capt. Henderson B. Taylor Jr., retired (1953-1981)

Firefighter Timothy B. Taylor (1986-1990)

Driver Joseph L. Ray, retired (1955-1976)

Capt. J. Stan Ray, retired (1971-1996)

Capt. Kenneth C. Ray (1997-present)

Capt. Jerry K. Hodges, retired (1966-1995)

Capt. Craig C. Hodges (1983-present)

Firefighter Christopher C. Hodges (2010-present)

## FIRE EDUCATION IN 1982



Jonny Sandy (left) and Wayne Ellis (right) appear in one of several slides recently found at Fire Prevention.

## THANKS FOR YOUR DONATIONS

In late October, \$1,478 was collected from personnel for the Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society. Thank you for your generous donations and thanks to the Battalion Chiefs and Division Chiefs for helping to collect the money. The funds will be used to furnish the museum trailer and help with other projects planned for 2011, including future fundraisers. ❖

## OTHER HISTORICAL DISPLAYS

Our history is also on display at the top of the second floor stairwell of the Dillon Building at 310 W. Martin Street, near the offices of Fire Administration. Also, the department's collection of antique apparatus is located at Fire Station 28 at 3500 Forestville Road. Call ahead to make an appointment, 919-266-1204. ■

## CODE SAVE CEREMONY



In a ceremony on November 12 at the Talley Student Center at North Carolina State University, students and responders were recognized for saving another student's life on September 2.

Spencer Shell went jogging early that evening, and was about a mile from home when he collapsed on Dan Allen Drive. He was witnessed by Jon Smetana, who saw Shell collapse and roll down a hill onto Harris Field.

Robert Olson arrived within seconds, and Kate Gilbertson raced over. Shell had no pulse, and was not breathing. Smetana began chest compressions, and Olson worked on rescue breathing.

Additional students arrived to assist, including a part-time firefighter who also helped with administering CPR. Patient care was soon taken over by arriving responders from the Raleigh Fire Department, Wake County EMS, and Cary EMS.

Shell spent 15 days in the hospital and received a defibrillator implant. He is recovering well. The 17 people who helped save his life were recognized in the ceremony. ❖

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MONTHLY RETIREE BREAKFAST

PAM'S RESTAURANT, 5111 WESTERN BOULEVARD, 7:30 A.M.  
SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH  
FEB 8, MAR 8, APR 12

### PROMOTIONAL CEREMONY

HONORING PROMOTIONS SINCE OCTOBER 2010 AND RECENT RETIREMENTS  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 7:00 P.M.  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

## TRAINING UPDATES

Recent improvements to the training center include four propane fire props permanently installed on the lower-level of the grounds. Used for live fire training, they consist of a passenger van, a 500-gallon tank, a "Christmas tree," and a commercial meter. New permanent props in the "rubble pile" were also added for lifting/moving, breaching, and shoring exercises.



Company-level training was conducted in December in Walnut Terrace, the public housing project located beside the Keeter Training Center. The 50-year-old buildings were vacated in November in advance of a planned demolition.

Task Force 8 also placed USAR 6 in service in December. The 2008 Isuzu/Chevrolet box truck has been equipped as a communications support unit.



It's designed to rapidly establish on-site radio and satellite links, and can also create patches between radio bands and trunked systems. It also carries a cache of handheld radios.

The unit pulls a specialized single-axle trailer equipped with a generator, light tower, antennas, and satellite dish. ■

## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

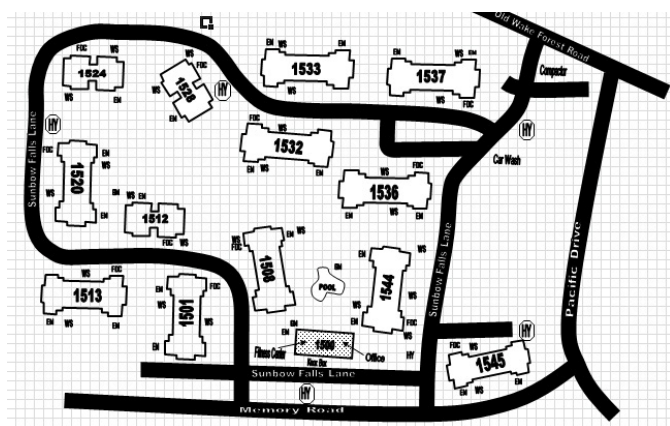
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## 12,000 Surveys and Counting



Phase one of the pre-incident survey project was completed in 2010. Fire companies completed the survey of every occupied structure in the city, with exception of single- and double-family houses. Over 12,000 structures were surveyed over 18 months.

Engine, ladder, and rescue company personnel visited each building, noting such aspects as layout, building materials, fire department connections, and special hazards. A drawing was also made of each structure.

The information was recorded in a computer database,

which can be accessed on calls by those units equipped with mobile data terminals. Each Battalion Chief vehicle is equipped with an MDT. They have also been installed in five ladders and several engines. Fire Prevention staff can also access and update the information during their fire inspections.

The survey data provides vital information for arriving units at structure fires, ranging from building numbers and access roads to the location of water sources and sprinkler/standpipe connections.

Phase two of the project starts in mid-January. Companies will revisit every surveyed building to update and expand information. For example, many small businesses have closed due to the economic downturn. Newly vacant structures will have their records updated.

Division Chief Garry Spain is the new project manager, taking the reins from Asst. Chief. Danny Poole. The shift representatives are Capt. Danny Kelly (A), Capt. Kevin Coppage (B), and Capt. Micky Nixon (C).

The data reviewer is Capt. Keith Wilder. Company data will also be reviewed by each Battalion Chief. The project team is working closely with Information Technology Manager Paul Roberts, who is managing the database. ■