



Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter



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Fall 2013

New Fireground Procedures



New fireground procedures were placed in effect on August 1. They expand upon a multi-year series of improvements and refinements to the fire suppression activities of the Raleigh Fire Department.

Over the last two years, changes have included new procedures for ladder, rescue, and squad companies, new water supply procedures, and the addition of portable monitors.

“Our strategy and tactics have been revamped, so it is imperative that our procedures change as well,” says Lt.

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Two Alarms on Manor Valley

Heavy fire was encountered at a fast-moving apartment fire in northwest Raleigh early on Saturday evening, August 24. Engine 17 found flames showing through the roof at 5024 Manor Valley Court. Crews began simultaneously attacking the fire, securing a water supply, and searching for and evacuating residents.



Raleigh Gazette photo

Battalion 4 arrived within minutes and assumed incident command. A second alarm was struck, and defensive operations were started. Three aerial streams, a deck gun, and portable monitors were deployed.



No residents of the thirty apartments were injured. Two firefighters received minor injuries. The fire was controlled within ninety minutes. See more photos at www.raleighfirenews.org. ■

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Jeff Silver who helped create and implement the fire-ground changes.

"We've modified our first alarm structural response to add more members dedicated strictly to the firefight," he says. "Previously we would have twelve to fourteen members, and now we have anywhere from twenty to twenty-five."

Among the changes include company assignments based on dispatch order, instead of arrival order. The designation of Safety Company has been changed, and moved to a second-alarm role. The water supply procedures have also been expanded.

"A second water supply is being established, with the fourth engine company deploying to the rear so we have more than a one-dimensional plan in place", says Silver.

Going to the rear is often overlooked, but it's one of the most important assignments at a working fire, he adds. "Both for suppression capabilities and as another set of eyes to evaluate fire conditions."



When they reviewed the fireground operation procedures of other comparable-sized fire departments, most of them were securing secondary water supplies. "Putting all your eggs in one basket, or in this case, one hydrant, isn't the best practice," adds Silver.

Companies have been training on the new procedures over the past year, and in exercises ranging from tabletop sessions to simulated fireground activities at the training center.

Firefighters are also learning to use new nozzles, which were issued to all engine and ladder companies earlier this year.

"We upgraded our inch-and-a-half attack lines with low pressure, break-apart nozzles," notes Training Division Capt. Richard Siebel. "These increased the

amount of gallons per minute, but without the fatigue factor of using larger, inch-and-three-quarter lines."

"Thanks to the work of our committee, we have a line that can be stretched quickly for our residential fires and with a minimum of 150 gallons per-minute," he adds.



The nozzles can also be broken apart on the fly, to change from a fog pattern to a straight-bore stream.

"We conducted live fire training this year, to demonstrate the difference between fog and solid streams," says Siebel. "This has allowed officers to make a decision upon arrival to attack a fire using a smooth bore or fog pattern."

The training helped show the difference in fire behavior when using each type of nozzle tip. And companies are already using the nozzles for offensive and transitional attacks with both smooth and fog tips, notes Siebel.

"Crews can quickly knock down a fire from outside using a straight stream towards the ceiling," he notes, "then move more quickly to the seat of the fire since the temperatures have been reduced."

One of the learning curves encountered with the new nozzles is that the lines can kink easier than with previous nozzles.

"We showed this to all personnel during the training earlier this year," Siebel says. "The key is for attack crews to check their hose around corners, as well as proper discharge pressures from our driver-operators."

The new fireground procedures were implemented by a committee consisting of Division Chief Barry Spain, Battalion Chief Duffy Deyo, and Lt. Jeff Silver.

The new nozzles were implemented by a committee including Battalion Chief A.C. Rich, Engine 2 and Engine 13 members on "A" platoon, Asst. Chief Garry Spain and Rob Horton in Services, and Asst. Chief Brad Harvey in Training. ■

Services Updates



Concrete apron repairs and HVAC work is underway at a number of fire stations.

At Station 4, Ladder 1 has been temporarily relocated to Station 16. Hot water service has also been interrupted and the haz-mat decontamination trailer is being used as a bathhouse. HVAC work has been underway since September.

Generators are being installed at Stations 3, 6, 9, 10, 12, 18, 21, and the Keeter Training Center. The installations are in various stages of progress. This completes a multi-year project to install emergency power sources at all fire department facilities.

Design work is underway for a replacement of Station 12. The estimated 17,000 square-foot facility will be located in the 4300 block of Poole Road.

Construction starts before the end of October on Station 13, which has been renamed from Station 29. The 10,000 square-foot facility will be located at 12117 Leesville Road.



The Field Communications Unit has been decommissioned. The 1988 GMC/Union City extended panel van

will be sold as surplus, and have its equipment removed. The unit was originally delivered as a combination command post and mobile air unit. It was converted to a haz-mat support unit in 2003, and a communications unit in 2006.

Four pieces of Pierce Arrow XT apparatus are in production: two rescue pumpers, a pumper, and an aerial platform. Delivery is expected in January.

Surplus Equipment Donated

Earlier this month, the Services Division donated several pieces of surplus equipment to the Hobgood Volunteer Fire Department in Halifax County, and the Rich Square Volunteer Fire Department in Northampton County. The departments serve very small towns and have very limited operational budgets.

Each department received a set of hydraulic extrication tools (pump, cutter, spreader), a portable electrical generator, assorted nozzles, and miscellaneous equipment.

Asst. Chief of Services Garry Spain learned of their needs after talking with members at the South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo in August.

City Council approved the donation of the equipment on October 2. ❖

IT Updates

The Raleigh Fire Department is replacing all handheld radios, a total of 224 units. The new Motorola APX 6000XE P25 radios are colored green, for high-visibility.

Each radio will be equipped with new remote microphones and new holsters. A total of 165 spare batteries have also been purchased, along with fifty Smart multi-unit chargers.



The chargers include an interface for software that monitors the batteries. New noise-reduction headsets have also been purchased, along with six Motorola APX 6500 mobile radios for new apparatus.

The radios will be deployed for thirty days of testing at Station 1, beginning in October. After testing, a rollout program will begin along with hands-on training. The current radios have reached their end of life, which is seven years for handheld public safety radios. ■

Staff Changes

Planning Officer **Andrew R. Langan** was hired on July 15. His duties include policy development and management, risk and capability assessment, strategic planning, grant writing, capital projects stakeholder, and department liaison for accreditation pursuits and ISO evaluations.

He previously worked as a Homeland Security Strategic Planner for North Carolina Emergency Management. He has private sector project management experience and served in the U.S. Army in Civilian Affairs. His education includes a Masters in Homeland Security from American Military University.

Senior Staff Support Specialist **Marissa P. Broome** was hired on August 5. Her duties include reception/telephone, travel coordinator, requisitioner for the Offices of the Fire Chief and Fire Marshal, and staff support for Fire Chief John McGrath.

She previously served the department in a part-time capacity, and has worked for the city since December 2012. Her background includes work in the customer service and HVAC industries.

Administrative Support Specialist **Ann Marie Cadman** started her position as payroll specialist on June 1. Her duties include payroll, leave management, callback documents, and staff support for Asst. Chief of Operations Danny Poole. Ann Marie previously served as a Senior Staff Support Specialist after being hired in September 2010.

Four Operations members have moved to the Office of the Fire Marshal as Deputy Fire Marshals: Lt. **Michael J. Barnes** (Sep. 23), Senior FF **Alan T. Holleman** (Sep. 23), First Class FF **Corey D. Campbell** (Sep. 23), and Senior FF **Kristin M. Higgins** (Oct. 1). ❖

Promotions

October 1

Lt. Christopher S. Smith to Captain.

Senior FF Robert A. Coughter to Lieutenant.

Senior FF Chadwick S. Bissette to Lieutenant.

Retirements

Capt. Tony D. Edmundson retired on Oct. 1 with 24.6 years of service.



Firefighters, Troopers Honored



On Saturday, August 24, members of the Raleigh Fire Department and North Carolina Highway Patrol were honored for their role in a helicopter rescue of a stranded boater on the Haw River in Chatham County on July 4.

Capt. Michael D. Ezzell, Lt. Stephen W. Holloman, Trooper Marvin C. Horne Jr., and Trooper Richard M. Collie were awarded a Medal for Heroism by the Raleigh Chapter of the North Carolina Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

The ceremony was held at the North Carolina State University Club. ❖

Capt. Scott White Honored

On Friday, September 20, Facilities Manager Capt. S. Scott White received the Outstanding Service Award at the Greater Raleigh Chamber/Wells Fargo 2013 First Responders Appreciation Breakfast.



The event at the Raleigh Marriott City Center also featured Fire Chief John McGrath as guest speaker.

Capt. White entered the Raleigh Fire Department on March 27, 2000. He was promoted to Captain in July 2010, and appointed Facilities Manager in the Services Division in August 2012.

"His duties range from the rooftops to the foundation and everything in between," says Asst. Chief of Services Garry Spain.

"I have never met a more determined individual than Captain White," Spain adds. "His desire to serve is a testament to our profession and his efforts truly define the word dedication." ■

Training Updates



Recruit Academy 38 graduated on August 9. The majority were assigned to "B" platoon. They'll serve as Probationary Firefighters for a six-month period.

Hiring for Recruit Academy 39 began in October. Applications were distributed to all fire stations, and also made available at the training center.



The applicant testing process has been modified. Written tests will be administered first, with successful candidates continuing to physical testing. Academy 39 is planned to start in March.

Testing has been completed for eighteen First Class Firefighter candidates, following a pair of three-week apparatus operator schools in August and September. All have become state-certified in emergency vehicle operation and driver/operator of pumps.

Promotion testing is being conducted in October for Captain and Lieutenant candidates.

Planning for 2014 training and career development opportunities is underway, including classes and programs for chief officers and captains.

Other training will include bailout systems, building construction, emergency vehicle driving (EVD), high-rise operations, and fireground procedures using live burn training at Central Carolina Community College in Sanford,

Training will also be conducted on new radios and new

self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). ❖

Meet the New Firefighters

The graduates of Recruit Academy 38, and their hometowns:

Banister, Nicholas B.
(Raleigh)

Barbour, Clarence C.
(Philadelphia, PA)

Boyette II, David W.
(Garner)

Bracy, Ryan C.
(Raleigh)

Braswell, Jonathan C.
(Holly Springs)

Dover, Ryan N.
(Raleigh)

Ellis, Peyton A.
(Arlington, VA)

Fox, Michael J.
(Cary)

Freese, Brandon J.
(Pittsville, MA)

Hauser, Adam T.
(Cleveland, OH)

Leaptrott, Russ M.
(Troutman, NC)

Lee, Zeth W.
(Kinston, NC)

Lynch, Michael A.
(Bracey, VA)

Oliver, Alexander R.
(Blackburg, VA)

Pearce, Graham S.
(Rolesville)

Reynolds, Zachariah J.
(Greensboro, NC)

Robinson, Kahlil G. E.
(Raleigh)

Rodriguez, Marilyn L.
(Cary)

Roe, Miles Alfred D.
(Bellport, NY)

Santos, Charles W.
(Miami, FL)

Scott, Samuel R.
(Raleigh)

Thayer, Kirsty E.
(Ashaway, RI)

Thedieck, Benjamin N.
(Raleigh)

Tyner, Jonathan S.
(Raleigh)

Webb, Kamilah O.
(Anchorage, AK)

Welch, Clayton A.
(Grand Cane, LA)

Editor's note: Tyner is the son of Capt. Jim Tyner, Boyette is the son of Bat. Chief David Boyette, and the grandson of retired Capt. Wade Boyette, and Braswell is the grandson of retired Capt. Judd Stephenson.

Deaths

Retired Capt. Michael E. Murray passed away in Morehead City on October 8. He retired in 1993 with 22.8 years of service.

Editor's note: Murray is the father of Capt. Nick Murray and Lt. Mike Murray.

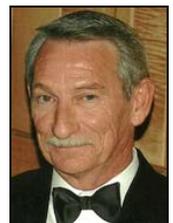


Photo Gallery



Deputy Fire Marshal Capt. Jamie Hill (left) and Asst. Fire Marshal Tim Henshaw (right) demonstrate stove safety to children at Crabtree Valley Mall on Thursday, October 10, during Fire Prevention Week.



Senior FF James Jones (right) competed against Morrisville Battalion Chief Cliff Cates (left) at a home show at the State Fairgrounds on Sunday, September 29. The event, hosted by retired Life Safety Educator Jan Parker (center), raised money for the Wake County Chapter of the Firefighters Burned Children's Fund.



Retired Capt. Wilbert "Tramp" Dunn led the Warren County Fireman's Day parade in Warrenton on Saturday, September 28. A world's record attempt was made with nearly 150 fire department vehicles.



Engine 4, Engine 16, Engine 18, and Ladder 1 on "C" platoon practiced rapid intervention team (RIT) skills using playground equipment at Lynn Road Elementary on Monday, September 16.



The Raleigh Fire Museum co-hosted a "Day with the Raleigh Fire Department" at the training center on Saturday, September 14. Some sixty people attended the event which included fire apparatus displays, museum tours, and children's activities.



Ladder 4 participated in the Saturday apparatus parade at the South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo in downtown Raleigh on August 10.

See more photos at
www.raleighfirenews.org

Fire Safety For College Campuses

On Tuesday, August 20, Fire Chief John McGrath and members of the Raleigh Fire Department joined Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Wayne Goodwin, along with Shaw University President Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy, for a dormitory fire demonstration on the Shaw University campus.



The event, sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Insurance and Office of the State Fire Marshal, was an effort to promote fire safety among college students. Staff and personnel from the Office of the Fire Marshal and the Operations Division helped make the event possible.

Students from several Raleigh universities were invited to attend the demonstration, which included live burns of two model dorm rooms. They were shown just how quickly a dormitory fire can grow and become deadly.



Parents and students can work together by following these tips as they start their school year:

- Always plan two ways out of your dormitory, off-campus residence, college stadium, etc.
- Sprinklers save lives. Select student housing that has fire sprinklers.
- Smoke alarms save lives. Do not disconnect them, tamper with them, or take out the batteries.
- When a fire or smoke alarm sounds, get out of the building. You never know when it's a real fire.
- Be cautious at parties! Fires can start when people are drinking alcohol and not watching where they put their smoking materials. Many fires start once a party is over and smoldering materials fully ignite.
- Refrain from drinking alcohol while preparing a meal, and never leave food unattended on the stove or in the microwave.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Don't overload outlets or extension cords as they can overheat and start a fire. ❖

Memorial Stair Climbers



Several members of the Raleigh Fire Department participated in Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation 5K run/walk at the PNC Arena in Raleigh on Saturday, September 21. They included, left to right, firefighters Aaron Stevens and Alex Artze, fire explorer Parker Roberts, and firefighter Brian McGinnis.



On Saturday, September 7, several Raleigh firefighters participated in the Charlotte 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb 2013 at the Duke Energy Center Building. Pictured left to right are firefighter Dwayne Massenburg, Battalion Chief David Boyette, Capt. Phil Morgan, firefighter Dawn Zimba, First Class Firefighter Jennifer Patterson, and firefighter David Boyette II. Also pictured are Lindsey Haver and Caroline Blount. Photo by Charlotte firefighter Dwayne "Woody" Woodard. ■

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTHLY RETIREE BREAKFAST
PAM'S RESTAURANT, 5111 WESTERN BOULEVARD
SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH
7:30 A.M.

RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT MUSEUM
KEETER TRAINING CENTER, 105 KEETER CENTER DRIVE
SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH
10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

THE RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER IS A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR PERSONNEL, RETIREES, AND CITIZENS. THE EDITOR IS HISTORIAN MIKE LEGEROS. BACK ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE AT www.raleighfirenews.org. TO LEARN ABOUT THE RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT, VISIT www.raleigh-nc.org/fire.

Thirty-Five Years of Service

In 1978, gasoline cost \$0.65 per gallon, the movies "Grease" and "Saturday Night Fever" rocked the nation, and Illinois Bell introduced the first cellular mobile phone system.

The Raleigh Fire Department had fifteen fire stations, with fifteen engines, two aerial ladder trucks, two service ladder trucks, two rescue companies, and three Battalion Chiefs.

On September 18 of that year, Danny Poole, Randy Bagwell, and Jeff Mullen were among the 25 recruits reporting for duty.

Today, they are the longest-serving active members. Congratulations to Asst. Chief J. Danny Poole, Battalion Chief G. Randy Bagwell, and Capt. Jeffrey L. Mullen for thirty-five years of dedicated service to the City of Raleigh. ■

