



# Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter



Volume 7, Issue 1

Winter 2014

## Hiring Underway For Academy



The hiring process is underway for Recruit Academy 39, which starts on March 24.

The Raleigh Fire Department announced in September that it was hiring firefighters. Applications were accepted in October.

Recruitment was conducted both locally and regionally. Members of the recruitment team staffed booths at local colleges and health centers, and at Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune.

By the time all applications were processed in Novem-

## High-Rise Fire on Thanksgiving Day



At 8:58 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 28, a fire was reported at the Holiday Inn at 4100 Glenwood Avenue. Five engines, two ladders, two Battalion Chiefs, and other units responded.

Engine 16 arrived to find the fire alarm activated, and reports of smoke on the tenth floor. Climbing ten flights of stairs, they discovered that the sprinkler system had activated, and extinguished a fire in an HVAC unit in one of the rooms.

Firefighters checked for any extension of the fire, and ensured that occupants were evacuated from that floor.

"They initially had to climb the stairs, because the elevator key was missing from its usual location," says Division Chief Rob Johnson. "We couldn't assume they were safe to operate."

Building maintenance members later provided a key, which expedited movement of personnel between the lobby and the upper floors.

Firefighters began salvage operations, which were extensive due to the large amount of water from the sprinklers. They also cleared smoke from the floor, and checked the carbon monoxide levels, before the occupants were allowed to return. ■

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

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Hiring for Academy – High-Rise Fire on Thanksgiving
- 2 Hiring for Academy (continued)
- 3 Services News – More Training News
- 4 Retirements - Promotions
- 5 More Staff Changes – OFM News – More News
- 6 Wilbert "Tramp" Dunn Honored
- 7 Photo Gallery
- 8 Calendar – Roy Moody Turns Ninety

Continued from page 1

ber, there were 883 applicants.

Written aptitude and physical agility testing was conducted in December.

The written test was held at the Raleigh Convention Center on December 3. Passing candidates continued to physical testing conducted the same week, on December 4, 6, and 7.

“We conducted and graded the written test in one day,” says Asst. Chief of Training Brad Harvey. “As a result, the scheduling was more accurate and efficient.”

Out of 883 applicants, 502 took the written test. Of those, 367 passed and continued to the physical test.

Applicants were tested on skills including cardio strength and endurance, flexibility, and upper- and lower-body strength.

A total of 346 applicants participated in the physical testing, and 321 passed.



The sorting and selection process has started, with a review of applicant test results. The next phase consists of interviews for selected applicants, which starts in January.

Also for the first time, psychology testing has been added to the medical screening, which is conducted during the post-conditional job offer.

“Our staff has put a lot of effort into researching and selecting the best methods for our candidate selection process: aptitude, physical, and psychological,” says Harvey.



*Capt. Lowell Smith addresses last year's recruits on their first day of Academy 38 on February 1.*

### By The Numbers

- 883 applicants.
- 502 took aptitude test.
- 367 passed aptitude test.
- 346 took physical test.
- 321 passed physical test.

### Recruits Report for Duty in March

Academy 39 starts on March 24. Graduation is tentatively scheduled for September 18. The fire department is expected to hire 25 to 30 firefighter recruits.

During the twenty-eight week academy, they'll receive the following state certifications:

- EMT – March 31 to May 29
- Firefighter I & II – May 30 to August 30
- NCRIT (Rapid Intervention Team) – Aug. 18-22
- Hazardous Materials Operation – Sept. 3-10

They'll also receive training on technical rescue, fire-ground procedures, high-rise operations, accountability systems, safety companies, engine and ladder company operations, and firefighter safety and survival.

The recruits will also receive a minimum of three days a week of physical fitness.

### New Fire Academy Coordinator

Capt. Lowell Smith is the new Fire Academy Coordinator. He replaced Capt. Fred Noble, who returned to Operations after his three-year assignment.



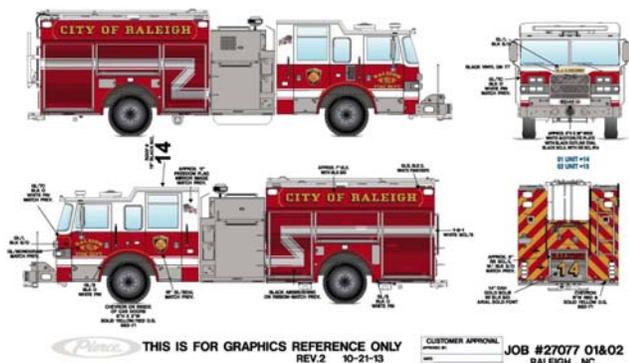
Capt. Smith has assisted with recruitment and academy training in prior years, most recently as Academy Captain for Recruit Academy 38.

He's a fourteen-year veteran of the Raleigh Fire Department and was last assigned to Engine 5-A.

Assisting Capt. Smith are five firefighters from Operations, on temporary assignment for the duration of the academy: Capt. Phil Jernigan, Lt. Chris Holcomb, Senior Firefighter Jesse Richardson, Senior Firefighter Dan Fox, and First Class Firefighter Greg Ellis.

The entire Training Division also plays an important role in the recruit academy. Staff works as a team during all phases of recruitment, from hiring to training to graduation. ■

## Services News



Production is nearly finished on four pieces of Pierce fire apparatus. Delivery of two rescue engines (shown above), a “standard” engine, and an aerial platform is anticipated in mid- to late-February.

The bidding process has started on a new mobile air unit. The unit will replace a 2002 International/SVI mobile air unit with high mileage and maintenance costs.

Construction will start in January on Station 13 at 12117 Leesville Road. The fire station will be located on the northwestern edge of the city and house an engine company.



Design work is underway for the Station 11 expansion and the replacement Station 12 at the corner of Poole Road and Bus Way. Land acquisition work is underway for the replacements of Station 3 and Station 14.

Renovations to the mezzanine level of the Dillon Building are planned for the first quarter of this year. The fire department’s administrative offices will expand into the space, notably relocating Operations Division command and support staff.

Lighter helmets are being procured for field-testing. The helmets include goggles for enhanced eye protection. Longer hoods, which add neck and head protection, are also being ordered.

Upgrades to personal protective equipment (PPE) also include the purchase of new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) in April.

Fifteen new thermal imaging cameras have been procured. Ten have been distributed and five have been ordered. The new cameras are compliant with NFPA 1801. They have a two-hour run time, and are

equipped with a temperature/range finder up to 200-feet.

Services plans to phase out the oldest cameras (Eagle 1) and retain the second-oldest (Scott) as reserve. Thermal imaging cameras are carried on all engines and ladders, as well as the rescue unit. ❖

## More Training News

Facility improvements are underway at the Keeter Training Center. The classrooms have been painted and new carpet has been installed. New desks for instructors have been ordered. The upper and lower classrooms in the main building will also receive new tables and chairs in the next few months.

Upcoming training includes twelve days of high-rise fireground procedure training at the Keeter Training Center in January and February, and fireground tactics at the Central Carolina Community College fire training center in Lee County in March and April.

The Lee County training is the first time that the facility has been used by the Raleigh Fire Department, outside of recruit training.

The training grounds include a two-story, class “A” burn building on a large lot.



The larger area will permit “whole building” scenarios above and beyond the “room and contents” drills done at the Raleigh training center.

The training will include instruction on transitional attack methods, which involves spraying water from the outside of a building, to cool a room prior to entering for interior attack.

Companies will also work on water supply procedures. The first-arriving engine is now required to “lay in wet” as they prepare for fire attack. The fourth-due engine then establishes a secondary water supply, in the rear of the fire building.

The Lee County training will be administered to all Operations personnel. ■

## Retirements

Battalion Chief E. Mikkey Martin retired Dec. 1 with 31 years of service.



Capt. Edgar C. Byrum retired Jan. 1 with 22.9 years of service.



Capt. Craig C. Hodges retired Jan. 1 with 30.1 years of service.



Capt. Zeb W. Overton retired Jan. 1 with 23.9 years of service.



Capt. James E. Tyner retired Jan. 1 with 28.4 years of service.



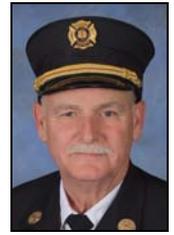
Capt. W. Dale Wall retired Jan. 1 with 28.4 years of service.



Firefighter Bradley A Stikeleather retired Jan. 1 with 8.9 years of service.



Deputy Fire Marshal Timothy R. Blaisdell retired on August 1 with 5.1 years of service.



*Editor's note: Tim was inadvertently omitted from the last issue of the newsletter.*

## More Editor's Notes

Chief Martin is the brother-in-law of Facilities Manager Capt. S. Scott White.

Capt. Hodges is the son of retired Capt. Jerry K. Hodges (ret. 1995), and also the father of First Class Firefighter Christopher C. Hodges.

Capt. Overton is the brother of Capt. Patrick T. Overton, and Capt. Tyner is the father of Firefighter Jonathan S. Tyner.

Capt. Wall is related to a number of past and present members, including distant cousin Capt. Greg Wall and his brother, retired Bat. Chief Randy Wall (ret. 2009), who is the father-in-law of Firefighter Stikeleather. ❖

## Deaths

Retired District Chief Ronnie C. Atkinson died in Raleigh on December 26. He retired on December 1, 1997, with 41 years of service.



## Promotions

### January 2

Promoted to Captain:

Lt. Jimmy C. Batten

Lt. Timothy L. Miller

Lt. Michael F. Kemmeries

Lt. Jayson T. Ramsey

Lt. David E. Lynn

Promoted to Lieutenant:

FF Dena M. Ali

FF Patrick B. Marks

FF Derick P. Cauthren

FF David H. Penny

FF Christopher S. Holcomb

FF Charles C. Sutton

FF Rodney M. Jones

### December 2

Promoted to Battalion Chief:

Capt. Christopher W. Wilson

Promoted to Captain:

Lt. Andrew S. Meier

## More Promotions

On December 17, the following firefighters were promoted to First Class Firefighter:

Samuel T. Alston	Searcy R. Howard
Cedric L. Branch	Dwayne L. Massenburg
Kelly C. Burns	Dexter R. Pearce
W. Brandon Dillard	J. Davis Poole
Kevin C. English	Bryan Prato
Daniel L. Ennis	Leighton R. Smith
Barry C. Fennell	Ben J. Sweet
David A. Grady	Luis A. Urbina
Christopher C. Hodges	Dawn Zimba

## More Staff Changes

We say goodbye to Lt. Jeffrey M. Silver, who resigned on December 29 with 13.8 years of service.



## Office of Fire Marshal News

A new city ordinance was adopted on January 8 for repairs of private fire hydrants. The ordinance requires owners to repair broken hydrants within 90 days. After that time, the city will initiate repairs and bill the owner.

Private fire hydrants function no differently than city hydrants. They're typically found at apartments, in HOA-managed residential developments, and on commercial properties. Private hydrants are always located outside of the City right-of-way.

There are an estimated 4,440 private fire hydrants in the city of Raleigh, out of approximately 20,000.

The number won't increase, however, as a new Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) prohibits further installation of private fire hydrants in the city of Raleigh. ❖

## Families Adopted For Holidays

The Raleigh Fire Department adopted six families for the holidays, as part of a city-wide caregiving initiative. Five families are located in Wake County, and one family is in Alamance County.

Fire department members donated \$3,350, which was distributed to the families in the form of Visa gift cards.

The project participants were Division Chief Barry Spain, Battalion Chief David Whitley, Battalion, Chief

Allen Wilson, Captain Dacote Whitaker, Asst. Fire Marshal Charles Williams, and Station 12 personnel. ❖

## High-Angle Rescue Training



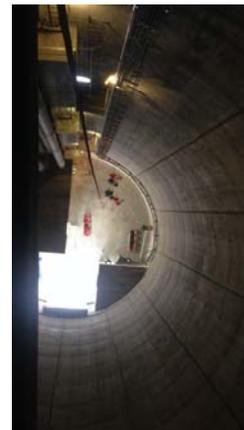
In late November, high-angle rescue training was conducted at a water tower on New Hope Road just south of Louisburg Road, for the Special Operations Command (SOC) rescue companies.

Personnel from Rescue 1, Squad 14, Squad 15, Engine 25, and Ladder 3 participated in the drills, which were split between the two groups on each platoon.

The scenario was an injured worker on an interior catwalk located approximately 165 feet from the ground.

A mechanical advantage lifting system was rigged, to raise the rescue equipment to the platform and then lower the victim and an attendant to the ground using a stokes basket.

The SOC companies train together on a regular basis on various technical rescue scenarios. The drills provide an opportunity to practice their skills and exchange ideas. ■



### Cold Weather Sees Rise in Fires Alarms

Freezing temperatures in early January, include single-digits at night, saw a sharp rise in fire alarms. Frozen pipes contributed to leaks that triggered fire alarm activations. Dispatched calls for Car 420, the Platoon Deputy Fire Marshal, rose 360% during Jan. 6-13, compared to calls during the same period in 2012. Car 420 is requested to assist in such situations, to ensure that fire protection systems are repaired and that fire watch procedures are established and reported appropriately.

## Wilbert "Tramp" Dunn Honored



On Saturday, December 7, an appreciation dinner for retired Captain Wilbert "Tramp" Dunn was held at the Raleigh Convention Center. It was sponsored by the Wake County Association of Fire Chiefs (WCAFC) and attended by 448 people.

Garner Fire Chief and WCAFC President Matt Poole opened the program and introduced emcee Swift Creek Fire Chief and retired Raleigh Asst. Chief Bryant Woodall.

The evening's speakers included retired Raleigh Asst. Chief Bert Richards and retired Wake County Fire Training Coordinator Dewey Poole. They toasted and roasted Tramp, with stories that drew laughter and applause.



Tramp was then called to the stage, where he was presented awards from individuals including Holly Springs Asst. Chief John Jones, Raleigh Asst. Chief and Fire Marshal Kendall Hocutt, and Asst. State Fire Marshal Rick McIntyre.

He was presented with a plaque of patches from all Wake County fire departments, as well as an axe plaque from the WCAFC, Wake County Firefighter's Association, and Raleigh Fire Department.

He also received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine from the Governor, a certificate of recognition from the State Fire Marshal, and a leadership award for the Wake

County Fire Academy named in his honor.

Following the awards, Tramp conducted an old-fashioned roll call and inspection with several of his favorite former recruits. He then took to the podium and concluded the night with his own brand of storytelling and words of wisdom.



### About "Tramp"

Wilbert "Tramp" Dunn entered the fire service on July 10, 1974, upon joining the Raleigh Fire Department. He rose through the ranks to the position of Captain, and retired on May 1, 2003, with 28.7 years of service.

During his career, he worked in the Training Division, where he led the EMS/rescue program for over a decade. He served as an academy instructor, and taught ten fire academies and 233 graduating firefighters.

He also worked for Beacon Ambulance, Wake County EMS, and the WakeMed ER for over 15 years. He was instrumental in introducing the defibrillator program to Wake County and the Raleigh Fire Department.

Tramp worked for nearly twenty years as an instructor at the Wake County Fire Training Center. He also served as an instructor and consultant for the Wake County Fire Academy program, which started in 2008.

He's also taught classes throughout North Carolina for decades. Tramp's traveled statewide as a fire service instructor for eighteen community colleges.

Most recently, he served as Fire Academy Coordinator for Central Carolina Community College in Sanford. He retired in late 2013, after receiving a diagnosis of ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease. ■

See photos from the event at [www.raleighfirenews.org](http://www.raleighfirenews.org).

## Photo Gallery



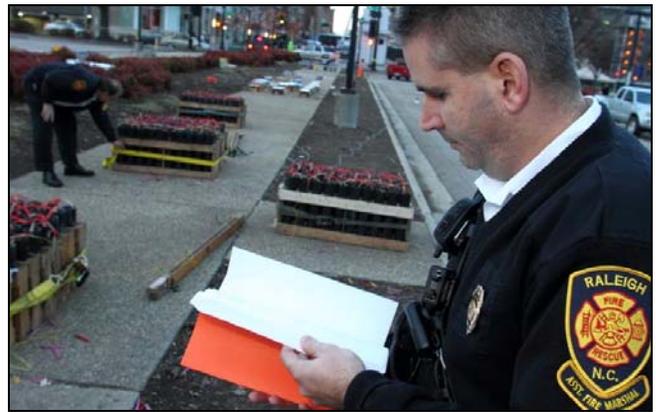
Lt. Andy Meier prepares the turkey at a Thanksgiving family dinner on Nov. 28 at Station 5 on "B" platoon.



Engine 4 provided coverage for Cary Station 3 on Dec. 23, during the funeral for Cary Fire Department Captain and Swift Creek Firefighter Jon F. Schondelmayer. He died on duty with Swift Creek on December 18.



Station 1 personnel on "B" platoon posed with their "Charlie Brown Christmas tree" and "white elephant" gifts on Dec. 25.



Asst. Fire Marshals Tim Henshaw (foreground) and Jeff Johnson inspect a First Night fireworks display on South Street on Dec. 31. The responsibility for issuing commercial fireworks permits was transferred from the county to the city in 2013.



Firefighters participate in a "tailboard critique" after a house fire on Keith Drive on January 12. Engine 10 was first on scene with heavy fire showing.



In October, a nine-day, ninety-hour Structural Collapse Technical (SCT) school was conducted at the training center by and for members of North Carolina USAR Task Force 8. The task force is comprised of firefighters from Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill and medics from Wake County EMS.

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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.

## CORRECTIONS

Retired Finance Officer Mark Scaringelli was incorrectly listed in the Spring 2013 newsletter as retiring with 5.4 years of service. He retired on April 1, 2013, with 6.4 years of service in the fire department.

## 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](http://www.raleighfirenews.org). TO LEARN ABOUT THE RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT, VISIT [www.raleigh-nc.org/fire](http://www.raleigh-nc.org/fire).

## Roy Moody Turns Ninety

Raleigh's oldest living retired firefighter, Capt. J. Roy Moody, celebrated his ninetieth birthday on November 5. His family held a party at Temple Baptist Church in Raleigh.

He was presented with a plaque from the state Senate, commemorating both his birthday and recognition as Raleigh's oldest retired firefighter.



Capt. Moody entered the department on January 1, 1954, and retired on July 1, 1983. He's also related to several members of the fire department.

Capt. Moody is second cousin to Capt. Wilbur Beasley (ret. 1992), and brother-in-law to Lt. Orlin Wilder (ret. 1983). He's also related by marriage to Asst. Chief J. Danny Poole. ■