



Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter



Volume 7, Issue 5

Fall 2014

Training at the Council Building



Since April, the Raleigh Fire Department has been conducting training in the abandoned Council Building on the campus of Dorothea Dix hospital.

The facility was found and the first training program was conceived by Lt. Chris Barrows (E5-C), who discovered the building while doing training on hydrants.

In February, he received state approval and access to the building. He created a training schedule for "C" platoon companies and received approval in March.

He was helped by Engine 5, and Battalion Chiefs John Fanning, Ian Toms, Chris Wilson, and Steve Page.

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Recruit Academy 39 Graduates



Thirty firefighter recruits graduated on Thursday, September 25, in a ceremony at Fletcher Opera Theater in downtown Raleigh. The ceremony opened with a processional featuring Wake & District Pipes and Drums and the Raleigh Fire Department Honor Guard.

After a greeting by Division Chief Keith Tessinear, Recruit Aaron Dickson led an Invocation. Command training staff were introduced and Fire Chief John McGrath made remarks.



Recruit Micah Cobb was named Valedictorian, while Recruit George Smith was recognized as Outstanding Recruit. Recruit and Class President Nicholas Campasano also presented a plaque to the training staff.

Badges were pinned onto uniforms by family members and Chief McGrath administered the oath of office. A reception followed the ceremony.

The new firefighters come from across North Carolina, as well as Colorado and Florida. They'll serve a six-month probation period, assigned to engine companies. Meet the recruits on Page 5. ■

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Since the building is abandoned and awaiting demolition, it's proved perfect for the fire department.

"We used a fog generator to produce smoke," says Barrows, "which added to the already darkened floors and rooms."

Rapid Intervention Teams

Each night, personnel from two engines and a ladder company simulated Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) procedures, with a crew entering a smoke-filled building, to find and rescue a firefighter in distress.

Chief Fanning has high praise for Barrows. "He has learned a lot from his opportunity to develop, schedule and deliver training on a platoon scale."

Adds Fanning, "He not only accepted the challenge but has proven successful in his efforts. Many people fail to recognize opportunity when it knocks, because it comes wearing work clothes."

Emergency Evacuation Drills

In June, "A" platoon personnel started using the building to practice firefighter disorientation and emergency evacuation skills.



The training is being conducted by Captains K.C. Ray (E1), Bill Bristle (E2), Jason Patterson (E9), and Lt. Terry Schlink (Sq14). They developed the program with help from Battalion Chief Greg Bridges.

The drills are individual-based, with two companies per session. Firefighters practice finding their way out of a building in zero visibility (with tape over masks), along with using Mayday and UCAN (Unit, Conditions, Actions, Needs) in radio transmissions.

"For this scenario, we wanted to rely on simplicity," says Ray. The drills have provided a "back to basics review" and "everyone has been doing a good job."

During each session, the trainers critique the lessons and identify both what worked well, and areas of improvement.

Larger-scale Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) exercises are planned, with a four-hour block of time and four or five companies participating, similar to the training groups that practice at the Keeter Training Center.



Mayday, RIT, and More

From July to September, "B" platoon also used the building. Squad 14 served as the instructors: Capt. Ben Averette, Lt. Bryan Kilmer, and Senior Firefighters Lanny Eaddy, and Lindsey Putman.

They were assisted by Capt. Greg Wall (E25) and Capt. Patrick Overton (E17), along with Air 1.

"The air unit was a huge asset," says Averette. "It ensured each person had a refilled air bottle before returning to service after the drills were completed."

Three companies participated in three-hour blocks, with three drills for each company: individual mayday exercises, a group Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) drill that included practice with the new RIT packs and Pak Trackers, and group discussion and demonstrations of various hose loads on the engines.

Future plans? Squad 14 is discussing using the building for search evolutions, high-rise evolutions, and more RIT drills.

Success Stories

The Council Building training has been successful for all three platoons, and for Raleigh firefighters to practice their skills.

"We are fortunate to have the equipment we have, but we must have a thorough understanding if we expect the equipment to protect us and work in our favor," says Averette. "No amount of equipment will ever replace our knowledge, particularly of the basics."

He adds, "It cannot be overstated that safe and smart actions will help us to prevent incidents where a mayday must be called and a RIT team deployed. Sometimes the best offense is a good defense." ■

Station 8 Honored by RCAC



The 2014 Raleigh Citizens Advisory Council (RCAC) Neighborhood Recognition Awards were held on October 15 and Station 8 was one of fifteen groups or individuals that received awards for their community involvement.

Engine 8 and Car 20 members on "A" platoon attended the event, which was held at the Five Points Center for Active Adults on Noble Road. The awards ceremony was preceded by a dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Pictured are Capt. James Roof, Lt. Edward Tindal, and Senior Firefighters Tim Godwin and James Jones, along with RCAC Chairman Benson Kirkman (left) and West CAC Co-Chairman Jim Paumier (right). ❖

Memorial Climbers and Riders



On Saturday, September 13, Raleigh firefighters participated in the Charlotte 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb 2014 at the Duke Energy Center Building. They climbed 110 flights of stairs as a tribute to the responders killed at World Trade Center attacks in 2001.

Pictured are Battalion Chief David Boyette; Captains

Mike Ezzell and Phil Morgan; Lt. Dena Ali; First Class Firefighters Donnell Hunter, Kelly Lamotta, Nick Thompson, Luis Urbina, and Dawn Zimba; Firefighters David Boyette, Marilyn Rodriguez, and Kamilah Webb; and Recruit Travis Holland.



In August, Lt. Ali and Senior Firefighter Caleb Lewis rode 440 miles in the annual Carolina Brotherhood bicycle ride. Their support staff was Captain Jason Patterson and First Class Firefighter Jennifer Patterson. They rode from Raleigh to Charleston to honor ten responders from the Carolinas who died in the line of duty last year. ❖

Lt. Joe Carroll Passes

On July 15, Lt. Joseph A. "Birdman" Carroll passed away after a two-year battle with cancer. He was 48 years old.



Carroll entered the department on February 13, 1991. He was promoted to First Class Firefighter in 1994, and promoted to Lieutenant in 2000.

He was last assigned to Engine 24 on "B" platoon, and his last day at the station was on April 30. His retirement was planned for the fall.

A Mass of Christian burial was held on July 19 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Durham, where Lt. Carroll received fire department honors. ■



Services Updates



Breathing air refilling stations have been installed in all five battalion headquarters, at Stations 8, 9, 12, 19, and 23.

The systems are used to refill air bottles worn by fire-fighters as part of their self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). The five systems cost \$170,000.

Sixteen spare bottles are stored at each fire station, along with four spare bottles carried by each Battalion Chief.

A new mobile air unit is also under construction by Pierce. The commercial-chassis apparatus will arrive in March. Two other pieces of apparatus from Pierce were ordered in October: a pumper and a tractor-drawn aerial ladder (or tiller).



Construction of Station 29 on Leesville Road is well underway. It is expected to be completed in mid-December.

Recent work at current fire stations includes construction of living quarters for the Division Chief aide at Station 8, shower painting at Station 16, and improvements at Station 7 (see next story).

Land is being purchased at 4510 Harden Road for a new Station 14. The architect Stewart-Cooper-Newell has been selected for the rebuilding of Station 6.

Construction starts in early 2015 on a pair of projects: Station 11 improvements, including a bay expansion, and the new Station 12 at Poole Road and Bus Way.

For more information about future fire station plans, see the recent special facilities edition of this newsletter at www.raleighfirenews.org. ❖

Television Moved at Station 7



For the first time since Station 7 opened in 1959, the television in the day room has been moved. Station crews reconfigured the day room after painting and other work was done this summer. The television was moved from the west wall to the east wall.

The fifty-five year-old facility received new kitchen cabinets and appliances, along with new paint, new ceiling, and new window blinds in both the kitchen and adjoining day room.

Other work included a painted apparatus bay and new metal gear racks.

Exterior landscaping improvements were performed by "C" platoon members, who added a stone marquee and new stone edging, and replaced landscaping timbers. ❖



Raleigh Responds with Warrenton

On Sunday, September 21, Engine 26 and Ladder 8 were detailed to the Louisburg Fire Department in Franklin County. They helped provide coverage while local members attended the funeral for Justice Fire Department firefighter John D. Gupton, who was killed in the line of duty on September 16.

While stationed in Louisburg, the Raleigh units responded to a reported kitchen fire on T. K. Allen Drive. They were dispatched along with units from Warrenton and Afton-Elberon fire departments in Warrenton. They were covering at Centerville and Gold Sand fire departments, respectively. There was no fire, only a smoking pot on a stove.

Warrenton is located in Warren County and the town center is 58 road miles from Raleigh's city center. ■

Meet the New Firefighters

The graduates of Recruit Academy 39, and their hometowns:

Jeremy Ardner (Garner)	William Henderson (Durham)
Nicholas Azan (Miami, FL)	Kristopher Hinnant (Selma, NC)
Emmet Bagwell (Raleigh)	Travis Holland (Selma, NC)
Anthony Battaglia (Raleigh)	Hipolito Lara, Jr. (Clinton, NC)
Brian Bello (Fort Collins, CO)	Todd Lineberger (Charlotte)
Sylvester Brooks (Raleigh)	Phillip Mack (Raleigh)
Samuel Brown (Raleigh)	Mark Mancini (Emerald Isle, NC)
Timothy Caldwell (Raleigh)	Travis Parrish (Henderson, NC)
Nicholas Campasano II (Morrisville)	Adam Pearce (Zebulon)
Nicholas Christopoulos (Raleigh)	Mark Pearce (Cullowhee, NC)
Micah Cobb (Raleigh)	Sandra Prier (Raleigh)
Caleb Creech (Zebulon)	Al'Landrew Shepperson (Cary)
Christopher Davis (Wendell)	George Smith (Carolina Beach, NC)
Aaron Dickson (Raleigh)	James Wood (Clayton, NC)
Stedman Greggs (Raleigh)	Marshall Wrenn (Charlotte)

Family Relations

Bagwell is the son of Battalion Chief Randy Bagwell (B1B), and also the brother-in-law of Firefighter Jason Lee (E7B) and cousin of Lt. Rocky Bagwell (E7A).

Parrish is the son of Firefighter Scott Parrish (E24A), and also the nephew of Lt. Donald Williams (E27C).

Holland is the fiancé of First Class Firefighter Kelly Lamotta (L1A), and cousin of Senior Firefighter Davie Hodge (E10A); Hinnant is the son-in-law of Capt. Bill Melina (E8B); Davis is the son-in-law of retired Battalion Chief Jerry Pace; and Pearce is the nephew of retired Capt. Tim Pearce. ❖

More Training News

The Company Officer Development Program started on September 30, with Chief Richard Lasky presenting for three days on the topic "Pride and Ownership." Thirty-eight captains from each platoon attended each eight-hour day.

Company officer training continues in November, when eight hours of Fireground Management begins. Eight groups of ten captains will attend each day, from November 4 to December 26.

Beginning in January and continuing through April, Professional Development will conclude the training. Quatra LLC will lead sessions focused on organizational and self development.

"Every captain in the Raleigh Fire Department will receive thirty-hours of tailored professional development in 2014 and 2015," says Asst. Chief of Training Brad Harvey. "The goal is to help them become more effective leaders both on and off the fireground."

In other news, Recruit Academy 40 begins on Oct. 27 with thirty-eight recruits. The academy will help fill thirty new firefighter positions for Engine 29 and Ladder 9.

The application process started in late May, with applications accepted through June 30. Testing was conducted in July. Interviews were conducted in September.

Emergency Vehicle Driver (EVD) road course training has also been ongoing at the city bus depot on Poole Road. It concludes in October. ■

Fire Prevention Week



During Fire Prevention week, the crew of Engine 5 on "C" platoon partnered with the NCSU Fire Marshal's office for a brickyard display on Tuesday, October 7.

Photo Gallery



Firefighters from "B" platoon battled a blaze in a detached garage on Gun Powder Lane on September 1.



Engine 1 at a vehicle versus building on Capital Boulevard at West Johnson Street on August 12.



Raleigh's 1926 American LaFrance pumper led a quartet of Capital City antiques down Fayetteville Street for the South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo parade on Saturday, July 26.

See more photos at
www.raleighfirenews.org



Recruit Class 39 members prepare to approach a flaming natural gas prop at the training center during a Family Day demonstration on August 7.

RFD at NFFF



Raleigh firefighters participated in the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend Service in Emmitsburg, MD, on October 3-5. Their roles included family escort, honor guard, pipes and drums, and Transportation Coordinator.

Pictured left to right are Lt. Paul Witmer, First Class Firefighter Tony Todd, Senior Firefighter Jesse Richardson, Lt. Jason Lane, Lt. Randall Schmidt, Lt. Josh Freeman, and Battalion Chief Greg Bridges.

Not pictured are Fire Chief John McGrath, who served as Incident Commander, and Lt. Jerry Jones, who traveled with the family of Youngsville Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Fields. He died in the line of duty on Christmas in 2013.

SOC Trains in Confined Space



Special Operations Command (SOC) personnel attended certification training on confined space rescue in August and September. The five-day class was conducted for SOC members on all three platoons.

Classroom and practical exercises concluded with a simulated rescue using the training manhole system on the grounds of the Keeter Training Center.

The final drill for "C" platoon, shown, was conducted on Saturday, September 13.

The scenario simulated three distressed workers in a manhole system: one suspended below the opening, one at the bottom of the opening, and one at the end of a connected access tunnel.



Lowering the rescuer

The rescue operation included the rigging of a rope system, to lower a rescuer into the space. Each firefighter carried self-contained breathing apparatus, to be used if the atmosphere became dangerous.

Remote air monitoring determined the safety of the atmosphere for the rescuers, who also carried monitoring equipment to sample the air as they proceeded deeper into the confined space.

The training is designed particularly for "permit-required confined spaces," which is an OSHA category for confined spaces that may pose health or safety hazards.

Employers with workers in permit-required confined spaces are required by OSHA regulations to provide in-house rescue and emergency services, or rely on outside agencies for same.

Numerous employers throughout the city use the Raleigh Fire Department for this purpose. As part of their procedures, they notify the fire department if their workers are intending to enter a permit-required confined space.

The Special Operations Command consists of Rescue 1, Squad 14, Squad 15, Ladder 3, Engine 25 (which also staffs USAR 801), and Battalion 5. This training has expanded the capabilities and certifications of all SOC personnel.

Similar training and certification is being conducted for trench rescue. Half



Raising the "victim"

of the SOC members were trained and certified in the spring. The other half will be trained and certified in a class to be conducted in early December.

SOC companies receive varying levels of training and certification in the technical rescue disciplines of confined space, high angle, structural collapse, trench, vehicle and machinery extrication, and water. ■

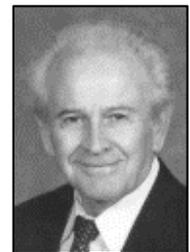
Retirements

Capt. Randall E. Mayo retired on October 1 with 25.6 years of service.



Deaths

Capt. Maylon J. Frazier, 91, passed away in Raleigh on August 22. He retired on July 1, 1982, with 27.3 years of service.



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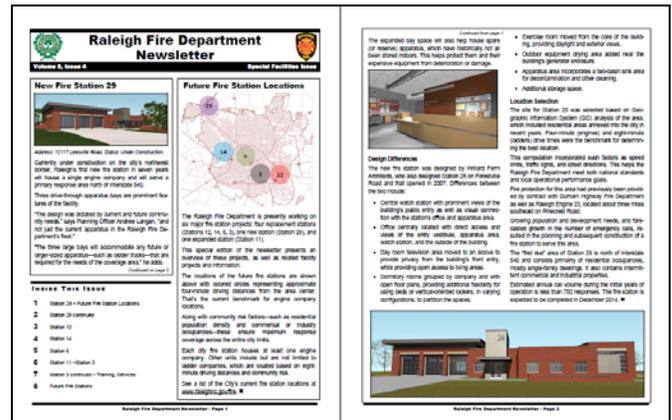
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.

Special Newsletter Edition



In August, a special “facilities edition” of the *Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter* was published.

The eight-page issue features updates on the construction of Fire Station 29, the expansion of Fire Station 11, and the plans for replacing fire stations 3, 6, 12, and 14.

There’s also information about other fire department facility plans and an overview of the planning process.

Read a digital copy at www.raleighfirenews.org ■

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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