



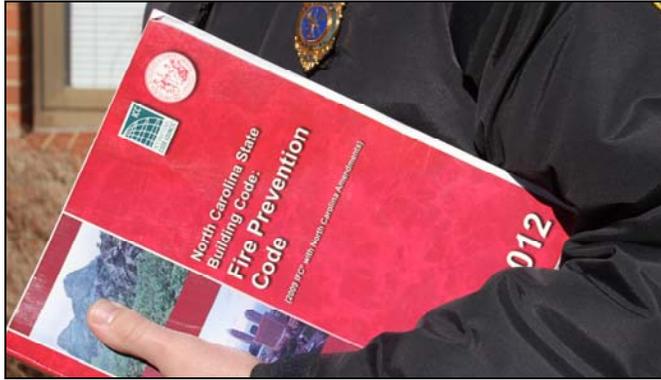
Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter



Volume 9, Issue 1

Winter 2015

Priority Fire Inspection Program



The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) is the enforcement, educational and informational arm of the Raleigh Fire Department.

It performs site inspections, issues permits, enforces fire codes, and coordinates pre-fire planning for buildings and facilities in the city. It's also responsible for fire investigations, and fire and life safety education.

In January of last year, a new program was established called the Priority Fire Inspection Program.

Fire inspectors were organized into geographic districts, based on fire stations. Greater recording and tracking of inspections was implemented, along with multi-year planning of inspection schedules. *Continued on Page 2*

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Two Alarms on Generation Drive



Two alarms were struck at 1914 Generation Drive on Friday evening, January 2. Engine 16 arrived to find a burn victim on a first floor apartment patio. Though the fire appeared to have self-extinguished, smoke and flames were soon seen in adjoining apartments.



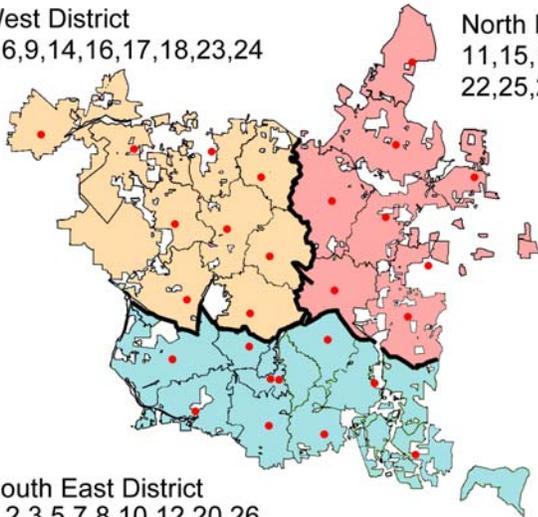
Conditions worsened as crews tried to find the seat of the fire. A second alarm was requested and defensive operations were prepared with two ladder trucks.

A transitional exterior attack cooled enough of the fire that the tactics were changed. Crew reentered the structure to resume an interior attack and soon contained the blaze.

Unlike most garden-style apartments on a flat plane, these four-story buildings were constructed on a steep slope. *Continued on Page 5*

West District
4,6,9,14,16,17,18,23,24

North District
11,15,19,21,
22,25,27,28



South East District
1,2,3,5,7,8,10,12,20,26

“The city was split into three inspections districts,” says Fire Marshal and Asst. Fire Chief Kendall Hocutt. Then further divided by the corresponding fire station response area.”

In addition to the districts, a criteria for prioritized inspections was created. It’s based on the occupancy type and state-mandated frequency schedule.

Within each inspection district, occupancies are ranked based on greatest potential for large fire loss. The inspections are managed as a team, with all members assigned to assist with completing the scheduled inspections.

“Inspections are done in batches of occupancy type,” says Hocutt. “And when one set is completed, the next is scheduled.”

For example, from the start of the fiscal year in July to November, the inspectors concentrate on hazardous, institutional, and day care occupancies.

“Those are annual inspections, as required by the state schedule,” notes Hocutt. “But we also complete all the two-year state-required inspections during this time, and a large number of three-year inspections.”

Enhanced Data Collection

The third piece of the Priority Fire Inspection Program is data collection.

Greater recording and tracking of fire inspections was implemented, using the department’s Firehouse Software records system.



The expanded data collection enables more effective planning, both annually and over multi-year periods.

“With the new program we now have a pretty good idea how long it will take to complete all inspections within the city,” says Hocutt.

The geographic-based assignments add other benefits. Before the program, fire inspectors were assigned to teams based on occupancy type.

By assigning inspectors to one or more fire stations, they’ve developed relationships with the crews and can discuss issues discovered during inspections.



Travel time and mileage has been reduced as inspectors are no longer crisscrossing the city. And property owners are becoming familiar with the inspectors and developing relationships.

By The Numbers

OFM conducts hundreds of scheduled occupancy fire inspections each month.

They also perform inspections of new construction, and special inspections: businesses that have applied for alcohol or amplified entertainment permits, and for supported care facilities that are starting operations.

“Both new construction and special inspections are requested on demand,” says Hocutt. “We’re notified a day or two in advance.”

In FY14, the OFM conducted 9,249 state mandated inspections of existing construction and 5,247 new construction inspections, as well as 4,704 reviews of construction plans. They also investigated 277 fires.

The OFM has thirty-four members, thirty of whom conduct fire inspections.

Four Assistant Fire Marshals manage the teams and also conduct inspections, along with their other duties:

- Tim Henshaw – Supervises the West District and specializes in high-hazards.
- Charles Williams – Supervises the North District and manages platoon Deputy Fire Marshal (Car 420) program.
- Jeff Johnson – Supervises the South east District and manages Firehouse data.
- Steve Berry – Supervises new construction inspections/permits and plans reviewers. ■

Facilities News



Construction of Station 29 at 12117 Leesville Road will be completed in March. Engine 29 will be placed in service at the new station.

The dormitory at Station 15 was recently reconfigured to accommodate the relocation of Rescue 1, which will be moved on January 16. The station now houses sleeping quarters for twenty-seven firefighters.

Planning for renovations of Station 5 and Station 2 is underway, including asbestos abatement, mechanical-electrical-plumbing replacement, new architectural components, and exterior improvements.

The renovations of Station 5 are planned for the spring. Engine 5 will be relocated to Station 6 during the twelve-week renovation.

Schematic design will start in early 2015 for the rebuilding of Station 6. Architects Stewart-Cooper-Newell were awarded the \$489,960 contract in November.

Construction of the \$6.4M facility is planned to start in the fall. The timeframe is contingent on the renovation of Station 5. When the rebuilding starts, Engine 6 will be relocated to Station 5.

Construction document review is underway for the new Station 12 on Poole Road. Groundbreaking is expected for March or April.

The expansion and renovation at Station 11 is planned to start in parallel with the Station 12 project. Construction document review is also underway.



In addition to the 370 square-foot expansion, numerous interior and exterior improvements are planned: asbestos abatement, complete HVAC upgrade, and renovations including new apron construction to accommodate a different slope, water-proofing below-grade walls on the dormitory side, and

wall repairs to prevent efflorescence. Plus architectural finishes replacement, new fixtures, gear racks, electrical wiring, selective door repair/replacement, and painting.

Project planning continues for the new Station 14. The final location will be determined based on inputs received from additional community meetings, and strategic decisions by City officials. ❖

Apparatus News

The new Freightliner/Pierce mobile air unit is planned for delivery in March. The current air unit will be moved to the training center. Two other pieces of apparatus are in production at Pierce, a pumper and a tractor-drawn aerial ladder. Delivery is anticipated in late summer for the engine and winter for the tiller. ❖

Training News

Academy 40 is underway, with thirty-six firefighter recruits who started on October 24:

Rontaegus L. Alford	Eric A. Hisey
Jacob T. Atkins	Alexis R. John
Ryan W. Ault	Daniel E. Kennon
Scott D. Bartow	Christopher R. King
Dillon N. Brown	Joseph A. Lane Jr.
Jonathan W. Brown	Timothy M. Lee
Eric R. Champion	Justin J. Melanson
Christian C. Christopoulos	Ryan L. Nelson
Andrew E. Davis	Tyler C. Parrott
James L. Davis	Christopher K. Patterson
Rebecca E. Davis	Rafael Perez-Valdivia
Anthony D. Eggleston	Aaron W. Proctor
Bradley T. Faucette	Nicholas W. Robinson
Britney M. Fitchpatrick	Erin L. Sullivan
Randy D. Fobbs	Diana N. Trout
Tyler L. Gouge	Aaron M. Voss
Eric T. Griffin Jr.	Jordan L. Whitley
John T. Hauser	Nicholas K. Williams
Cody A. Heakins	Aaron M. Winfree.

New Administrative Assistant

Brandi S. Maynard was hired on December 29 as the new Senior Staff Support Specialist for the Training Division. She's a veteran of the fire service, having worked for the state Office of the Fire Marshal and the North Carolina Fire and Rescue Commission. She's also an active member of the Coats Grove Volunteer Fire Department in Harnett County. ■

Appointments

January 12:

Appointed Platoon Deputy Fire Marshal (Car 420-A):
Deputy Fire Marshal Brian K. Morgan

December 1:

Appointed Asst. Facilities Manager:
Lt. Matthew D. Taylor

Promotions

December 13:

Promoted to Captain:

Lt. Antonio D. White
Lt. Christopher P. Tucker
Lt. Todd A. Glover

Promoted to Lieutenant:

Senior FF Daniel P. Fox
Senior FF Benjamin G. Shook
Senior FF Brent A. Upton
Senior FF Kenneth R. VonDerHeide
First Class FF Joseph F. McCarthy

Retirements

Deputy Fire Marshal Lt. Randy L. Harrington retired Jan. 1 with 23.8 years of service.



Senior Firefighter Patrick S. Canady retired Jan. 1 with 10.7 years of service.



Senior Staff Support Specialist Kathy S. Boone retired Jan. 1 with 16.6 years of service.



Capt. Jeffrey S. Gower retired Dec. 1 with 28.2 years of service.



Capt. William A. Tisdale retired Dec. 1 with 28.2 years of service.



Capt. Jeffrie H. Williford retired Dec. 1 with 29.4 years of service.



Asst. Facilities Manager Lt. David P. Ritchie retired on Dec. 1 with 29.4 years of service.



Lt. S. Alan Moody retired Dec. 1 with 25.8 years of service.



Deaths

Retired Lt. Billy Neal Perry, 54, died in Raleigh on November 19. He retired on December 1, 2011, with 30.7 years of service.



Retired Firefighter Dallas H. Perry, died in Surf City on December 9. He retired on July 1, 1984, with 16.2 years of service.



On Sunday, January 4, fire companies and chief officers met at Station 16 to conduct a critique of the January 2 apartment fire on Generation Drive.

Crews Search Collapsed Building



On Thursday December 4, the Raleigh Fire Department responded to a structural collapse with possible entrapment at Branch Street and Blount Street.

Fire units were Engine 2, Ladder 4, Battalion 2, as first-due companies, plus the technical rescue response of Rescue 1, Squad 14, Squad 15, USAR 801 (staffed by Engine 25), Ladder 3 (SOC company), and Battalion 5 (rescue chief). Plus Air 1 and Haz-Mat 2, both automatically dispatched. Medical response was EMS 10, EMS 39, District 10, Medic 92, and Truck 1.

Police were originally dispatched to the incident, and requested fire and EMS due to prior incidents of occupancy by homeless individuals. The fire department was dispatched at 11:26 p.m.

The address was 1277 S. Blount Street, a vacant structure owned by Carolina Coach Company. The one-story brick warehouse building with 8,536 square-feet was built circa 1936. It had reportedly been empty for several years.

Ladder 4 was first arriving and took command. They found the street-facing side of the building (Division A) collapsed into the street. There was a combination of "pancake" and "lean to" collapses within the front section of the structure (Division 1).

Battalion 2 and Rescue 1 soon arrived, with Battalion 2 assuming command, with Ladder 4 assigned as Operations. Battalion 5 assumed Operations upon his arrival.

Rescue 1 evaluated the structure and began searching void spaces in the collapse area. Ladder 4 searched the section of the building that was undamaged. Other units were staged on the street as they arrived.

After a briefing with all companies present, operations

continued. USAR 801 was assigned RIT and also secured utilities. Squad 14 and 15 were rotated into Division 1 to assist with debris removal. Engine 2, Ladder 3, Air 1, and Haz-Mat 2 were released.

Once the primary search of the building was complete, Ladder 4 conducted a secondary search. No individuals were found in the structure. After the arrival of a city building inspector, the scene was secured and transferred to police and the inspector. Demolition was planned to start that morning.

Before serving the bus company, the building was used for a variety of purposes, from a sausage plant in the 1930s, for contract haulers in the 1940s and 1950s, and as "auto display" for a motor company in the early 1960s. ❖

Two Alarms on Generation Drive

Continued from Page 1

The top two floors were addressed on and accessed from North Hills Drive, but firefighters had to walk around three buildings to access the lower floors facing Generation Drive.

Crews were also challenged by differing conditions on the front and rear of the structure.

"This is the first fire in my twenty-six year career," said Division Chief Barry Spain, "where we were fighting such different conditions on two sides."

Twenty-four people were displaced from fourteen units, four of which were damaged by flames.

The cause was determined as incendiary, from an attempted suicide. The eighteen year-old female victim died the following day.

An explosion caused by flammable liquid spread fire through void spaces between the apartments.

"We saw heavy smoke building on the front side," said Battalion Chief Duffy Deyo, "While they had light smoke on the back side, and then it would change."

The fire took two hours to control, with units remaining on scene overnight to watch for hot spots.

"They worked very hard at the scene," says Deyo, "And they saved a lot of property." ■

Apparatus and Company Changes



On January 16, changes were made to four Special Operations Command (SOC) companies:

- Rescue 1 moved to Station 15
- Squad 15 moved to Station 7 as Squad 7
- Engine 7 moved to Station 15
- Engine 21 added as technical rescue company
- Engine 25 removed as technical rescue company
- USAR 801 and boats moved to Station 21 (Staffed by engine)
- Engine 17 added as technical rescue company (staffing only, not added to responses.)

Engine 17 joins Ladder 3 at Station 17, which is already designated as a technical rescue company. The tractor-drawn trench rescue trailer was also moved from Station 15 to Station 17. It's now staffed by Ladder 3.

Rescue 1 and Squad 15 crews remained completely intact with their moves. The relocated crews from Engine 7, Engine 21, and Engine 25 stayed mostly intact.

Better Optimization of SOC Resources

Moving Rescue 1 to Station 15 will help with fireground staffing in north Raleigh. Unlike downtown, with many companies overlapping, there are greater gaps in coverage on the north side.

Station 15 has also been moved to Battalion 5, which places Rescue 1 under the Technical Rescue Chief's command.

Rescue 1 will also benefit from improved response times, with better "run streets" accessed from Spring Forest Road versus Southall Road.

Other reasons for relocating the SOC assets include Squad 15/7's extreme amount of added mileage since the apparatus was delivered in February 2013. Station 7's territory can also be easily covered by other units, when the squad is responding to another part of the city for a technical rescue call.

To further optimize the technical rescue resources, structure fire responses were modified in October. Rescue 1 is now dispatched to all structure fires. Squad 14 or Squad 15/7 are no longer included in the dispatch, unless Rescue 1 is out of service, or the squads are one of the four primary engines (first-due, second-due, RIT, or safety).

Other Changes

Also on January 16, Air 1 was moved from Station 5 to Station 8. The two stations have swapped staffing priorities, with Station 8 now prioritized for same.

Reserve Ladder 210 was also relocated. The 1988 Pierce Arrow Snorkel is now housed at Station 25. ❖

Photo Gallery



Firefighters Cassie Neugent and Derick Cauthren staffed bike team on December 4, one of the days of the Pullen Park Holiday Express.



Recruit Academy 40 members practice obstetric skills on December 18, as part of their training for their Emergency Medical Technician certification. ■

ISO Evaluation in December

In December, the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) performed its inspection of the Raleigh Fire Department, as part of its evaluation of the city's Public Protection Classification.

This rating is used by insurance companies to help establish fair premiums for fire insurance based on a community's ability to mitigate structure fire emergencies. ISO staff evaluates three major areas: fire alarm and communication systems, the fire department, and water supply.

Inspector Ralph Roberts paid a visit to the Office of the Fire Chief on December 18, and reviewed the two-and-a-half inch thick "submission book" page by page.

"Gone are the one-and two-week inspections," says Capt. Keith Wilder (E27A), who was assigned the role of project lead.

"They now require a lot of pre-inspection work which is collected into a book of documentation," he adds.

The most heavily scrutinized areas of the fire department's emergency preparedness were personnel staffing, training records, and apparatus availability and response readiness.

They also looked at automatic aid companies, pre-incident survey records, and NFPA 1710 (fire suppression operations) data.

"ISO leaves no stone unturned," notes Wilder. "They perform an objective assessment, without any favoritism or benefits of doubt."

"But they're also fully supportive both during the inspection and in the months leading up," he adds, "to help the city ensure that no opportunities for scoring points are left behind."



Wilder led a group that collaborated to compile the data and documents to validate the city's fire protection capabilities. They included staff from the fire department, Public Utilities, and the Emergency Communications Center.

"The Fire Chief assigned each Assistant Chief to work with me, along with IT Director Paul Roberts", says Wilder. "We had twenty-six people working together and right down to the last day, to ensure we didn't leave anything unchecked."

Despite his twenty-eight years in the fire service, this was Wilder's first exposure to the ISO process. To prepare he did some forty hours of reading about ISO, and then another twenty studying the 2009 submission and response.

"Once I finished looking backward, I was ready to go forward, and organize my thoughts to establish priorities for our working group," he adds.

He notes that there were particular challenges: "After thirty years, ISO completely revamped its rating schedule in 2013. Other than gaining a snapshot of strengths and weakness from 2009, the rest of the data and forms could not be repurposed. Our entire submission this year was created from scratch."

Also new is a four- instead of five-year rating schedule. The city will again be visited by ISO in 2018.

The City of Raleigh was last inspected in 2009 and received a Class 3 Community rating. The rating scale is measured from one to ten, with one as the highest.

"Our overall goal is to improve to a Class 2 Community Rating," says Wilder. In 2009 and rated individually, the Emergency Communications Center was a Class 1, Public Utilities was a Class 2, and the fire department was a Class 3.

That averaged to a Class 3 rating for the community. Wilder notes that Public Utilities wants to be a Class 1 by 2018, and hopes that the fire department's individual rating demonstrated at least a Class 2 in 2014.

"That would give the city an overall Class 2 Community rating," says Wilder, "which should result in lower fire insurance premiums in Raleigh."

The scores should be known in March. ■

Raleigh Fire Department
310 West Martin Street, Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27602

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PROMOTIONAL CEREMONY

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 222 W. HARGETT STREET
THURSDAY, JANUARY 29
7:00 P.M.

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.

Christmas Candy Brings Haz-Mat



Firefighters Bryan Smith (left) and Jerry Farantatos investigate a suspicious substance outside the post office on Lake Dam Road on Friday, December 26. The white powder was identified as candy. ■

