



Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter



Volume 12, Issue 2

Fall 2018

New Rescue, New Quarters



Rescue 1 has received a new 2018 Pierce Arrow XT heavy rescue, which was placed in service October 3. It's also been moved from Station 15 to Station 16. They occupied their new quarters on October 8.

It replaces a smaller 2007 Pierce Enforcer heavy rescue. Benefits of the new truck and its walk-in body style are numerous, beginning with the very design.

The five-member project committee spent 15 months designing the truck down to each individual tool tray and compartment.

"There was a lot of wasted space on the old truck," says Lt. Shawn Burns. "And most of the equipment is now mounted and has a place. Before, lots of equip-

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 New Rescue, New Quarters – Glenwood Towers
- 2 New Rescue, continued
- 3 Chief Rich Retires – Glenwood Towers (continued)
- 4 Station 12 Opens – Facility Updates – New Apparatus
- 5 Retirements – Transitions – Promotions – Firefighter's Ball
- 6 Recruiting for 2019 – Company Reassignments
- 7 Photo Gallery
- 8 Task Force 8 Deployed for Florence

Three Alarms at Glenwood Towers



WTVD video still

Three alarms were struck on Friday, October 26, at 509 Glenwood Avenue. Engine 13 and Ladder 4 were initially dispatched at 12:55 p.m. for an automatic fire alarm at Glenwood Towers, a high-rise apartment building for elderly residents.

Arriving units found fire in a ninth-floor apartment, venting through the window, and with thick, blinding smoke once they reached the fire floor. Second and third alarms were quickly requested, plus two more engines, for manpower for evacuation and rescue of residents.



High-rise procedures were used, with crews and equipment staged two floors below the fire floor. Car 20 was Operations Command on the eighth floor, with Battalion 3 as Division 9 supervisor, and Battalion 5 as division supervisor for floors 10 to 14.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 1

ment was laying on top of each other. This led to damage in transport, and increased time getting the tools off the truck and in use.”

The new rescue is six and a half feet longer and can carry more gear, such as trench panels, ground pads, and air shores used for trench rescue.



“We carry more gas-powered saws, a much larger selection of long timber for shoring for structural collapse, and pre-cut cribbing for MVAs and shoring,” adds Burns.

The truck’s also equipped with a number of standard features, such as an LED light tower, a 20kw PTO generator, and both a mounted and portable winch.

Special Features for Water Rescue

“We also added roof-mounted rollers and tie-downs, for water rescue calls,” says Senior Firefighter Justin Bolduc.

“On the old rescue, during periods of multiple water rescue calls, we had to inflate and deflate our rescue boat with each call. And that took some time. Now, after the first call, we can slide the inflated boat onto the roof, tie it down, and rapidly respond to the next call.”



“Once the water event is over,” Bolduc notes, “we can deflate and store it.”

The roof is accessed via two built-in hatches.

Electric Powered Extrication Tools

Unlike the traditional hydraulic-powered “jaws of life” used by “Raleigh rescue” since the 1970s, the current extrication tools are primarily battery powered.

“We use Hurst extrication tools,” says Burns. “Our primary tools are the E-Draulics cutter, spreader, and ram. The cutter and spreader are mounted in the front bumper.”

The ram, along with back-up hydraulic extrication tools, are mounted in a rear compartment.

With Room to Grow

One other benefit is room to grow. The larger truck—and its carefully designed compartments—will allow Rescue 1 to add more equipment to their cache of ever-evolving tool needs. ■



How Rescue Responds

Rescue 1 is most often dispatched to structure fires, and motor-vehicle accidents (MVAs) involving overturned vehicles or pinned occupants.

At fires, they’re normally assigned the search task (primary and/or secondary). They also handle the role of “outside vent,” which includes ventilation, ground ladders, and controlling utilities.

For overturned vehicles and/or “pin jobs,” and based on order of arrival, they may handle vehicle stabilization and/or extrication.

Additionally, and as part of the Special Operations Command with Squads 7 and 14, Engines 17 and 21, Ladder 3, and Battalion 5, they can be dispatched to all types of technical rescue calls, including high-angle, confined-space, trench collapse, swift-water, and man-in-machine incidents. ★

Chief Rich Retires

On November 1, 2018, Battalion Chief A.C. Rich retired with 29.75 years of service. He joined the department in February 1989, in Academy 13, and with classmates including Andy Lane, Duffy Deyo, Greg Bridges, Garry Spain, Jerry Ward, and Mike Legeros.



But he was almost hired by Durham, four years earlier, for their first non-public safety officer academy. "I turned down the offer due to entry pay," he says.

When he applied to the Raleigh Fire Department in early 1988, Chief Rich had been a volunteer firefighter at Stony Hill for four years.

"My father was part of the department from 1966 until he passed away. Many of my family members were charter members of Stony Hill and I was always around the firehouse growing up."

Rich was promoted to First Class FF in 1992, and to Lieutenant in 1993. "I was assigned to Engine 20 and then transferred to the training center. I was promoted to Captain in 1998 while at training."

After ten years at training—teaching classes and recruit academies, and serving as Haz-Mat Coordinator—he returned to the line on Engine 8-A. He also returned to his long-time role as a haz-mat team member.

During those early years, he married Leigh Rich, daughter of Lt. Creighton Edwards. They have three children.



Appointed to Battalion Chief in 2012, he served as department Safety Officer (2012 to 2014) and as Battalion 3 on "B" platoon (2014 to 2018).

On "Bat 3" last year, he responded to the biggest fire of his career—and one of the largest in the city's history—on March 17, 2017, at the Metropolitan apartments under construction.

Looking back on his long career, Chief Rich has wise words for those coming up the ranks. "The modern fire service is saturated with more perspectives than ever,

creating an interesting culture of collaboration that's heavily coupled with exclusion."

For that reason, Rich stresses working together. "All firefighters, in all ranks, should strive to understand each other's beliefs that relate to leadership, management, and the essential operative fire service."

"Strive to educate your team on new approaches but be aware of the dynamics involved with any change. Do not get discouraged when roadblocks are met. Stay on point yet always be humble. Contribute!"

What are his plans? He'll be working full-time as a member of the Youngsville FD leadership team. He'll also volunteer with Northern Wake FD, and is looking forward to next year, when he'll rotate into the position of President of the state firefighter's association, for his sixth of seven years as a board member. ❖

Glenwood Towers (continued)

continued from page 1

"As crews climbed stairs to the fire floor, they were met with residents coming down. We were also getting reports of residents trapped in their rooms, who had called 911," says Battalion Chief Chris Wilson, who served as Operations Command.

"Throughout this incident personnel were forced to make decisions based upon training, reading present conditions, and using instinct," he adds. "They performed numerous rescues and displayed a high professional standard, saving the lives of many residents."

The command post was in the lobby, with the Incident Commander (Car 2) and other functions, including evacuation branch and medical command.

Six residents were hospitalized and over 100 were evacuated. Twenty-eight residents were displaced. The fire was controlled at 1:48 p.m. and contained to a single apartment.



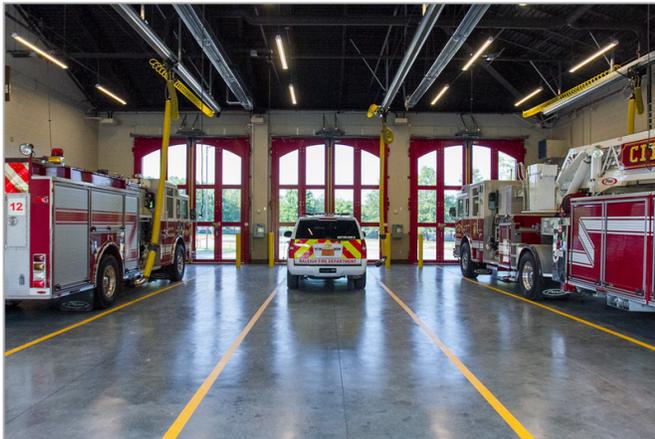
The fire response included 12 engines, five ladders, three battalion chiefs, and Rescue 1, plus relief companies.

See more photos at www.raleighfirenews.org. ■

New Station 12 Opens



New Station 12 at 4306 Poole Road, was placed in service on Monday, August 13. Engine 12 and Battalion 2 relocated from old Station 12, located a mile west on Poole Road. Ladder 8 relocated from Station 26 on Barwell Road, and Car 20 (Division Chief of Operations) relocated from the basement of Station 8 on Western Boulevard.



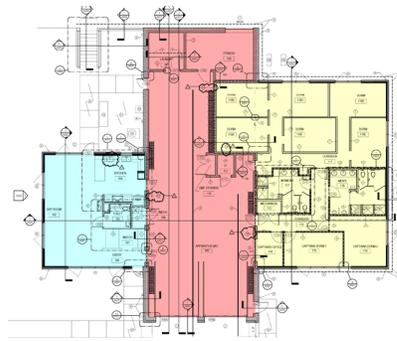
Nearly four times the size of the original Station 12, which was built in 1974, the 18,000 square-foot structure is the largest City of Raleigh fire station to date.

The facility has sleeping quarters for twelve personnel per platoon, offices for the Division Chief, Battalion Chief, and Company officers, and a small conference room that doubles as the fire department's Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

The EOC was soon activated and used the following month, during Hurricane Florence.

Designed by Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects, Station 12 will have a near-identical twin on the west side of the city, Station 14 on Harden Road. Construction has started on that station. ❖

More Facility Updates



Renovations to **Station 11** will start in the fall. The apparatus bay is being expanded, to accommodate a larger aerial apparatus and

with added rooms for laundry and fitness equipment. The project will also completely renovate the living and sleeping areas.

Construction continues on rebuilding of **Station 6** on Fairview Road. Structural work started this summer. Site work is underway on the relocation of **Station 14** to Harden Road, off Blue Ridge Road.

Temporary quarters for **Engine 22** are nearly ready at the water treatment plant on Falls of Neuse Road. The engine will be relocated soon, with the ladder company and haz-mat unit moving to Station 25. ❖

New Tiller, New Engines



On October 10, the city's newest tractor-drawn aerial ladder (or tiller) was placed in service as Ladder 4. The 2018 Pierce Arrow XT aerial ladder, 107-foot, was delivered on September 19. It joins the fleet as the fourth tiller and the first without a pump.



Two other pieces of Pierce apparatus were delivered this summer, a pair of 2018 Pierce Enforcer Pumpers, 1500/500/20. They were placed in service on August 2 as Engine 6 and Engine 28. *Photos by Lee Wilson.* ■

Retirements

Captain William J. Melina (E27-C) retired on June 1 with 30.3 years of service. He started in 1988 with Academy 12. He was promoted to First Class Firefighter in 1991, to Lieutenant in 1992, and to Captain in 1996.



Senior Firefighter David S. Feller (E10-B) retired on April 1 with 30.2 years of service. He started in 1988 with Academy 12. He was promoted to First Class Firefighter in 1991 and to Senior Firefighter in 1994.



Transitions

Retired Firefighter Louis S. Bruno passed away in Fuquay-Varina on November 4. He retired with 9.9 years of service in 1996.



Retired Captain Jerry L. Melton passed away in Morehead City on August 15. He retired with 30 years of service in 1995.



Retired Lieutenant Johnie M. Dew passed away in Nash County on June 29. He retired with 17.4 years of service in 1982.



Retired Captain John L. Breeden passed away in Laurel Hill on July 22. He retired with 22.9 years of service in 1997.



Retired Assistant Chief Claude T. "C. T." May passed away in Swansboro on April 5. He retired with 32 years of service in 1981.



In other news, former Firefighter Derrick Fells died in Durham on September 29. He was a Raleigh firefighter from 2008 to 2017.

Promotions & Appointments

October 23

Capt. David A. Peruso to Battalion Chief

Lt. Grant R. Hall to Captain

Senior FF David A. Grady to Lieutenant

June 23

First Class FF Nicholas J. Lamotta to Lieutenant

June 9

Lt. Stephen W. Holloman to Captain

Senior FF Christopher C. Hodges to Lieutenant

April 14

Lt. Phillip A. Walters to Captain

Senior FF D. Kyle English to Lieutenant

Editor's note: Lt. English is the brother of Kevin English. Hodges is the son of retired Capt. Craig Hodges, and the grandson of retired Capt. Jerry Hodges. Capt. Walters is the son of retired Battalion Chief Alan Walters.

New Staff

Welcome aboard to the following new staff members:

July 23 - Deputy Fire Marshal Vincent R. Lombardi

July 9 - Deputy Fire Marshal Blair W. Thomas

Also on October 23, Senior Firefighter Marilyn L. Rodriguez transferred to the Office of Fire Marshal as a new Deputy Fire Marshal.

Firefighters Ball on November 17

You are cordially invited to the **2018 Firefighter's Ball**

Saturday, November 17th, 2018
Raleigh Convention Center Ballrooms
6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased beginning in June.
Ticket prices:
\$50 - June 1 - July 31
\$55 - Aug 1 - Oct 31
\$60 - Nov 1 - 11
\$75 - Nov 12 - 17

Purchase tickets at www.raleighfiredepartment.org/ball or call (919) 850-1111. Tickets must be purchased at one time. For more information contact: (919) 850-1111.

Special rates available at the Raleigh Marriott City Center. Call Marriott reservations at class 276-7422. Use the group name "Firefighters Ball 2018". This special hotel rate ends October 17th.

Dress code:
Men, Active - Class A Uniforms
Men, Retired - Class A Uniforms or Black Tie
Women - Active or Retired - Class A or Formal Dress

Activities for the evening will include red-carpet arrival, kiss-cam, and a grand prize giveaway.

Tickets are still available for the 2018 Raleigh Firefighter's Ball on Saturday, November 17.

The event is from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the Raleigh Convention Center ballrooms.

Tickets are \$60 until Nov. 11, and \$75 until the day of the event.

Activities for the evening will include a red-carpet arrival, "kiss-cam", and grand prize giveaway.

Dress code for men is Class A uniforms (active, retired) or black tie (retired).

Dress code for women is Class A or formal dress (active or retired). ❖

Recruiting for 2019 and Beyond



On November 1, the annual firefighter application period opened. Applications can be submitted through November 30, via www.raleighnc.gov/employment, the city's jobs web site. Search for "Fire Fighter".

Recruiting efforts intensified in September and October, with outreach at over 20 schools including high schools, community colleges, and universities. Recruiters communicated with over 1500 potential applicants, both through mass communication and personal interactions (email, phone, presentations, programs, and events).

Eight career fairs were attended, from military to college and high school. Contacts were also made with career development staff across the state. The fire department has also engaged with such programs as Soldier for Life and Transition Assistance Programs at all the state's military bases.

**Join the
Raleigh Fire Department**

Unselfish. Dedicated. Service.
To achieve our mission, we must turn ideas into action, be pioneers in our field, contributors of knowledge, creators of solutions and explorers of ideas.

Employment Requirements

- Must be at least 19 by first day of Fire Academy
- High school graduate or equivalent.
- Vision corrected to 20/30 each eye
- Must pass candidate aptitude test
- Must pass candidate physical agility test
- Must have valid NC drivers license

Application Procedure
Applications will be accepted Nov 1-30 and must be completed online at raleighnc.gov/employment.
Applications will NOT be accepted in person, via fax or email.
No prior fire experience required.





"We're now visiting our military bases and engaging personally with members who are transitioning out of active duty and looking for that final career move," says recruiting team member Captain David Penny.

New avenues of promotion included a social media push, with a weekly series of short videos posted to the City of Raleigh accounts on Twitter and Facebook. One of the videos (see above) featured the women of the

Raleigh Fire Department. As of October 29, the social postings have received over 27,000 views.

"Our recruitment efforts are spreading to high school fire academy and public safety programs also," adds Penny. "Three of our retired or former members are now the Campus Directors for these programs: Mickey Nixon in Clayton, Reggie Hocutt in Garner, and Michelle Whitaker in Harnett County."

Adds Penny, there are now over 85 High Schools in North Carolina with Public Safety Programs and/or Fire Academies.

The recruiting team is also engaging with Middle School students to promote these high school programs and highlight careers with the Raleigh Fire Department and other public safety fields.

"We'd like to see our efforts pay off for each and every public safety program across the state, from volunteers in rural areas to career employees in the city. We want the Raleigh Fire Department to help lead the way," Penny says.

The core mission of the recruiting team is two-fold: "Our goals are not only to recruit and retain future City of Raleigh firefighters, but also promote and highlight the level of public service that we provide and promote the positive image of the Raleigh Fire Department locally and statewide."

"We're working to build an extensive and diverse pipeline of future firefighters that will always reflect the population we serve," Penny adds, "while always weaving ourselves into the fiber of the City to personally interact with those that we serve." ❖

Company Reassignments

On October 27, Ladder 2 was moved to Station 15 and Ladder 9 to Station 23. Battalion 4 relocated to Station 18, Haz-Mat 2 moved to Station 29, and Haz-Mat 5 moved to Station 27.

Personnel were also shifted, for those crews that cross-staff the haz-mat units.

Additional moves are pending, to accommodate the renovation of Station 11 on Glenridge Road (Engine 11 to Sta 7) and the relocation of Station 22 on Durant Road (Engine 22 to temporary station at E. M. Johnson water plant, Ladder 5 and Haz-Mat 4 to Sta 25.) ■

Photo Gallery



Engine 6 (right) has been temporarily housed at Station 5, during the rebuilding of Station 6 (left).



Fleet Services added a new mobile service unit in September. Car 322 replaces a 2000 Freightliner/American LaFrance former rescue truck, used as a service truck since 2007. A second, similar shop truck is used by the on-call mechanic as Car 321.



IT Manager Paul Roberts checks network cable connections at new Station 12 on August 13, on moving day.



Squad 7 arriving at a vehicle fire on New Bern Avenue on July 19, 2018.



Engine 17 and Ladder 8 were among several units that extinguished outside fires, after a tall truck struck a power line on Highway 70 at Westgate Road on June 30.

Brush fires started on both sides of the highway, with additional companies requested for manpower and blocking for traffic.



For Bill Melina's last big breakfast at Station 27 before his June 1 retirement, his crew on "C" platoon made all-he-can eat pancakes. ■

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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

RETIREE BREAKFAST AT ANGIE'S RESTAURANT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT 9:00 A.M.
RSVP TO DONALD SUMMERS

2018 RALEIGH FIREFIGHTER'S BALL

RALEIGH CONVENTION CENTER
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17
6:00 P.M. TO 11:00 P.M.

MONTHLY RETIREE BREAKFAST

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

RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT MUSEUM

KEETER TRAINING CENTER, 105 KEETER CENTER DRIVE
SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, 10 TO 2

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.

Task Force 8 Deployed for Florence



On Sunday, September 16, North Carolina Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 8 deployed two Type I swift water rescue teams and one Type III USAR team to Laurinburg, NC, to assist with emergency operations after Hurricane Florence.

They started operations on Monday, September 17, and performed tasks including answering water rescue calls, evaluating local dams, and supporting the local Emergency Operations Center.

The teams—comprised of firefighters from Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill fire departments, and medical personnel from Wake County EMS—were housed at the Laurinburg Presbyterian Church.

On Thursday, September 20, the teams returned home and were demobilized. ■