



Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter



Volume 13, Issue 1

Summer 2019

Meet the Fire Marshal



Assistant Fire Chief John Fanning is the City of Raleigh Fire Marshal. He was appointed to the position in January 2018 and provides a fresh perspective into the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) in this interview.

Q: What are the main functions of OFM?

A: "We completely surround a fire. We're there before the fire, conducting inspections to ensure that the built environment is safe as well as providing life-safety education to the occupants. We're there during the fire, conducting on-scene investigations of the origin and

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Building Collision + Working Fire

An unusual pair of incidents occurred on Wednesday, June 19. Engine 19 was dispatched to a reported vehicle collision at New Hope Road and Hollenden Drive. They found two damaged vehicles, along with a two-story apartment building with major structural damage.

"I requested Ladder 2 and Rescue 1, to stabilize the building, so it could be searched," said Incident Commander Battalion Chief David Whitley, who was requested by Engine 19.



About 55 minutes into the incident, as firefighters were finishing their temporary shoring work, smoke was seen billowing from another apartment in the complex. Crews raced across the parking lot, to evacuate residents and begin fire attack, as Battalion 1 requested the dispatch of an additional structure fire assignment.



The fire was quickly controlled and contained to one room. Eight people were transported with injuries, from the vehicles, the struck building, and the fire building.

"I've been here 26 years, and a Battalion Chief for ten years. You think you've seen it all, and then a call like this reminds you to always expect the unexpected," adds Whitley.

See more photos at www.raleighfirenews.org. ■

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cause, be it human behavior, mechanical malfunction, or force of nature. And we're there afterward, educating and communicating to the community and other stakeholders, from the immediate residents affected by an incident to affecting code change at the state level. And all which combines to reduce risk in Raleigh.

Q: How many people do you have?

A: We have 39 people: four Assistant Fire Marshals, 25 inspectors, four plans reviewers, two educators, one of which is a borrowed Operations position, one Chief Fire Investigator, and one admin. Plus a part-time inspector, and myself.

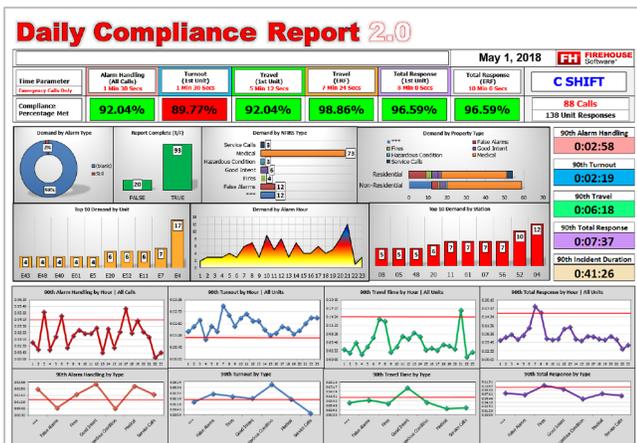


Q: What's something that line firefighters should know about OFM?

A: My mission is to make Raleigh safe. To do that, I need data. And the reports created in the field are much more important than the troops might realize. Reliable data—from accurate and thorough data entry—keeps our department strong, and our citizens safe.

Q: Tell me about this data dashboard we're seeing.

A: This dashboard shows some of the data that I'm talking about. It's a real-time picture of our performance. At any hour, on any day, we can see everything from our current inspection rates to which companies are taking the longest to leave the stations on calls.



Chief of Fire Investigation Captain Preston Gaster and Assistant Fire Marshal Brandon McGhee have been working tirelessly to mine the multiple data sources that feed this dashboard.

Q: Tell me about recent leadership team changes?

A: In March 2017, Assistant Fire Marshal Tim Henshaw left to take the position of Fire Marshal in Greensboro and we promoted Brandon McGee as his replacement. Brandon is very dedicated and has contributed greatly to our division's success.

Earlier this year, Assistant Fire Marshal Jeff Johnson left to become the Fire Marshal in Cary, and we promoted Robert Maddry to his position.



We expect great things from Rob as well. I am fortunate that I have talented, internal staff from which to promote without looking outside the department.

I've been excited for Tim (top) and Jeff (bottom). It's great to see that we have quality people who can cycle through OFM and realize their end-career goal, by becoming Fire Marshal.

Q: What's new and exciting in OFM?

A: Unattended cooking and discarded smoking materials are the top causes of fires in the city. And smoking materials is the top cause of catastrophic fires.

To combat that problem, we're developing "educational strike teams" for areas experiencing the heaviest fire volume. And we've identified Engine 19's response district as one of those hot spots for those causes, so we're starting our pilot program there.

Within two weeks of a significant structure fire, we'll deploy an engine company, our educators, a fire inspector, and the property manager. They will set up the education tent at the site of the fire. They can make a personal connection with the residents and help them understand the risks of unattended cooking and discarded smoking materials.

The residents can see the melted sections of siding, smell the smoky debris, and such. We've been designing the program since January 1 and will begin implementing on July 1.

The other big news is a specialized trailer for alarm

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system training and education. Fire alarm testing and maintenance is our number one code violation. The very system designed to alert and protect occupants is our biggest problem. And that's crazy.

So, we've designed a trailer that will include every sprinkler connection and fire alarm control panel type used in the city. It can be hooked to a water source to provide working demos, such as troubleshooting an alarm panel or plugging an activated sprinkler head.

We will use the trailer—which will look like the below designs—for training, both inside the department (recruits, company officers) and outside: sprinkler/alarm contractors, property managers, and the general public.



Q: What's happening lately with investigations?

A: Over the last year, Captain Gaster has been working on a huge project to improve the data in our fire reports. Typically, three hours per day! He's also expanding into the 700 series of NFIRS call types, those relating to alarm system malfunctions.

And his work had an immediate outcome. We've improved our ability to track the causes of fires, and, more importantly, the location of the fires.

We can create "heat maps" showing the "hot spots" for particular causes of fires. From there, we can develop strategies toward prevention. We expect such benefits as reducing instances of fires, and higher conviction rates for fire-setters.

We've also expanded the investigation team. We've added more investigators, expanding from seven to ten. This was done to reduce their exposures to carcinogens at fire scenes, and to give each investigator more time for individual investigations.

We've also added more apprentice investigators. This is necessary because it takes five years for someone to be certified and functional.

Q: Do you have expansion goals for FY20 or later?

A: There's a department-wide staffing survey underway. Once that's complete, I'd like to see some positions added: another Assistant Fire Marshal, for span of control. More educators. More inspectors.

And I want to add a new job classification above the level of Deputy Fire Marshal. Called Senior Deputy Fire Marshal, it would help provide specialized on-the-job training for field staff, manage project implementation, help with general oversight, and help to create a career path for our staff.

Q: Anything else?

A: We're revamping our web site, which will help better inform our customers and improve the marketing of our safety messages. We've created our own safety programs with slogans such as "Help Us Out, Put it Out" for smoking materials, and "If You Can't Look, Don't Cook" for unattended cooking. Stay tuned.

And let me add that I could not be prouder of the members of the Raleigh Fire Department, and their dedication and willingness to support our mission of saving lives and protecting property, and no matter if they sit behind a computer, over a plans-review desk, or in the jump seat of a fire truck. ❖

Recruit Academy 44



Recruit Academy 44 started on Monday, April 29, when nineteen recruits reported for duty at 7:00 a.m. This year's academy is led by Captain Ben Averette. The instructors are Lt. Nathan Burgess, Lt. Chaz Moore, Lt. Donovan Pitz, and Lt. Michelle Smith.

Applications were accepted during the month of November, with 653 received. A total of 624 applicants were invited to the written exam, and 335 participated. The 236 who passed were invited to the fitness test, and 180 passed.

Background checks were conducted on 94 applicants in January and 88 were interviewed in February. Drug tests, medical physicals, and psychological evaluations were conducted in March.

This application process now follows an annual schedule from November to March. ■

Editor's note. The Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter publishing schedule has changed to twice-yearly. See back issues at www.raleighfirenews.org.

Facility Updates



Construction continues on the rebuilding of **Station 6** on Fairview Road. The concrete masonry unit walls are finished on the first story, and construction continues upward with the second-floor slab placed. Planned completion is January 2020.

The 1949 engine house was closed in May 2017, and progress has been slower in all phases of the project. During site prep, there was fuel contamination from an underground storage tank, as well as unsuitable soils for compaction and structure.

And as the walls have started going up, the pace has been slower due to the very small site size, which adds a limit to materials and activities at any time.



Renovations are underway at **Station 11** on Glenridge Drive. Ladder 2 relocated to Station 25 on October 27, 2018, and Station 11 was vacated on December 5, when Engine 7 relocated to Station 7.

Renovations started in February, after demolition of the apparatus bay. Structural work has completed on the new bay, and interior work has started on the entire structure. Planned completion is November.



Site work is nearly finished on the new **Station 14** on Harden Road. With sediment monitoring nearing completion for the backfill of the retaining wall, footers and under-slab utilities should begin in July.

The 17,000 square-foot station will replace a nearby 3,616 square-foot structure on Lake Boone Trail.



The relocation of **Station 22** on Durant Road is underway. Engine 22 and Ladder 5 were relocated to temporary quarters on February 5; the engine to the Falls of Neuse Road water plant and the ladder to Station 25. Haz-Mat 4, the decon unit cross-staffed by Ladder 5, was also moved to Station 25.

The vacated station was demolished in March and April. The new station will be erected at 10050 Durant Road. Currently in design and plan review, the facility is estimated to begin construction in the spring of 2020. The design team has to submit documents to the Board of Adjustment in August for final determination on multiple requested variances.

See more photos at www.raleighfirenews.org.

Other Facility Projects

New Station 1/HQ – Still planned for South Street between Dawson and McDowell street. The planned site is currently used as a vendor lot for the convention center. The city is in the process of purchasing nearby land as a replacement site for the vendor lot. Design of the new facility will commence in the fall of 2019, upon the closing of the South Street site.

Station 15 renovations - Design development complete and renovation construction documents being prepared for potential bid in the fall of 2019. Targeting construction to begin upon the completion of Station 11 renovations and moving Engine 11 and Ladder 2 (at Station 15) back to their quarters. This is the latest in a multi-year project to update legacy fire stations, after Station 5 and Station 2.

New Training Center, Phase 1 - Land acquisition and preliminary services have been funded for FY20. That's the first part of the Phase 1 development, which is funded in FY20 and beyond. Planned site is in the Battle Bridge Road area.

Plans for relocating **Station 3** and new **Station 13** have been pushed out. They'll be funded in a future budget year. ■

Retirements

Battalion Chief Robert L. Mitchell Jr. retired on March 1, 2019, with 29.1 years of service.



Captain Marvin L. Brooks Jr. retired on April 1, 2019, with 28.1 years of service.



Captain Marvin Evans retired on April 1, 2019, with 28.1 years of service.



Captain Edward L. Carroll retired on December 1, 2018, with 28.8 years of service.



Captain William M. Stanfield retired on April 1, 2019, with 22.2 years of service.



Captain Douglas B. Campbell retired on March 1, 2019, with 22.2 years of service.



Captain Timothy G. Carroll retired on December 1, 2018, with 35.0 years of service.



Captain Jerry L. Ward retired on December 1, 2018, with 29.8 years of service.



Lt. Carlton L. Scarborough retired on December 1, 2018, with 27.8 years of service.



Lt. Russell C. Scott retired on February 1, 2019, with 14.0 years of service.



Lt. Brent A. Upton retired on January 1, 2019, with 12.3 years of service.



Senior Firefighter Alfred L. Hogan Jr. retired on January 1, 2019, with 35.1 years of service.



Senior Firefighter James S. Barber retired on January 1, 2019, with 18.2 years of service.



Senior Firefighter Elliott G. Palmer retired on March 1, 2019, with 12.5 years of service.



Promotions & Appointments

May 25

Promoted to Assistant Fire Marshal:
Deputy Fire Marshal Robert Maddy

Promoted to Lieutenant:
Senior FF Grady P. Collins
Senior FF Reginald J. McLaurin
First Class FF Michael A. Lynch

April 1

Promoted to Captain:
Lt. Alexandra O. Gutierrez
Lt. Joshua A. Petty
Lt. Kenneth T. Yahiku

Promoted to Lieutenant:
Senior FF Charles L. Baker III
Senior FF Eric J. Donaldson
Senior FF Jerry J. Farantatos
Senior FF Robert M. Horne
Senior FF Elijah E. Johnson
First Class FF Clarence C. Barbour
First Class FF Ryan N. Dover
First Class FF Russ M. Leaptrott
First Class FF Kamilah O. Webb

March 1

Promoted to Battalion Chief:
Captain Dennis C. Marshall

Promoted to Captain:
Lt. Jason R. Lane
Lt. Christopher W. Ferrell

January 1

Promoted to Captain:
Lt. Richard D. Carlson
Lt. Derick P. Cauthren

December 1, 2018

Promoted to Captain:
Lt. Leonard A. Epps

Promoted to Lieutenant:
Senior FF Adam B. Marshburn
Senior FF Nicholas T. Thompson

New Staff

Welcome aboard to Tanner J. Menges in Services,
hired June 24 as a File Supply Clerk.

Transitions

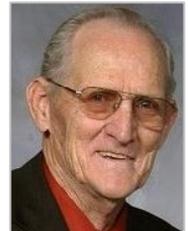
Retired Captain Reginald L. "Reggie" Poole, 78, Cary, passed away on May 16. He retired in 1992 with 30.4 years of service.



Retired Lieutenant Thomas G. "Tommy" Rich Jr., 77, Garner, passed away on March 29. He retired in 1991 with 26.2 years of service.



Retired Lieutenant Orlin V. Wilder, 85, Clayton, passed away on February 2. He retired in 1983 with 26.5 years of service.



Retired Captain Wilbur K. Beasley Sr., 88, Raleigh, passed away on December 25, 2018. He retired in 1992 with 34.2 years of service.



Retired Raleigh Fire Captain Thomas Wayne Best, 82, Wendell, passed away on December 10, 2018. He retired in 1993 with 33 years of service.



Retired Captain W. Dennis Holland, 57, Wake County, passed away on November 14, 2018. He retired in 2011 with 28 years of service.



Retired District Chief James E. "Jimmy" Warren, 83, Raleigh, passed away on November 13, 2018. He retired in 1986 with 29.3 years of service.



Extra Alarm Report



WTVD image

Several extra-alarm fires have happened since our last newsletter.

April 23 - 4715 N. New Hope Road. Two alarms, apartments. New Hope Engine 1 and Raleigh Engine 19 first-arriving. Interior attack with aggressive roof work for venting smoke from common attic area. Accidental cause, exhaust fan.

April 10 - 6131 Falls of Neuse Road. Two alarms at a three-story office building, Dispatched as automatic fire alarm for Engine 15 and Ladder 2. Heavy smoke found on arrival, on all three floors. Controlled in 30 minutes. Accidental cause, electrical.

March 24 - 5109 Primland Lane. Two-alarm house fire. Dispatched as outside fire for Engine 12, with structure fire and spreading grass fire found on arrival. Two aerial streams and portable monitors deployed. Accidental cause, improperly discarded smoking materials.

March 7 - 3121 Aileen Drive. Two alarms, apartments. Engine 20 arriving with heavy fire showing and residents attempting to jump out of windows. Two EMS alarms also dispatched, for numerous potential patients. Accidental cause, gasoline used in fireplace.

February 13 - 1723 Crossroads Arbor Way. Two alarms, apartments. Swift Creek Engine 1 and Raleigh Engine 8 first-arriving. Fire found in end unit and quickly spread to common attic. Strong winds contributed to the fast-spreading flames. Portable monitors and aerials streams were deployed. Accidental cause, improperly discarded smoking materials.

Nov. 10, 2018 - 5051 Wallingford Drive, shown above. Two alarms, apartments. Engine 19 first-arriving. Transitional attack to start, with interior operations plus portable monitors. Crews withdrawn for aerial operations that knocked down the bulk of the fire. Accidental cause, unattended cooking. ❖

Photo Gallery



On Monday, June 10, the crew of Station 2 on "B" platoon posed with Matty Gregg (center, bottom), who is running across America for the Firefighter Cancer Support Network. He's pictured with his support team member Phoebe Brimer (right), and Senior Firefighter Keith Kirton (far left), who is the FCSN director in North Carolina.



Raleigh Fire Explorer Post 108 members lent a literal hand to the recruit academy's EMT training on June 25. That's Abby Brown, 17, expertly applying the fake blood to "victim" Lazarus Moran, 16. And Instructor Andrew Perlak is giving the stage directions.



Two of three new 2019 Pierce Enforcer pumpers, 1500/500, have been delivered. They'll be assigned to Engine 15, 18, and 27, and will replace a trio of Spartan/Quality rigs, model years 1999 to 2002. ■

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

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US POSTAGE
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RALEIGH, NC
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FALL PROMOTIONAL CEREMONY

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 222 W. HARGETT STREET
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2019 AT 7:00 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 TWICE-YEARLY 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.

USAR, Haz-Mat to Durham



The Raleigh Fire Department responded to downtown Durham on April 10, with state-requested regional response haz-mat and USAR resources, to assist after a building explosion and fire that caused structural damage—including one total collapse—of several buildings. Two people were killed and 25 were injured, including nine firefighters.

The haz-mat team monitored for natural gas in the buildings surrounding the site, as well as in the sewer system. USAR team members performed a variety of tasks, including searching of damaged buildings, and assisting with escorting occupants out of the surrounding structures. ■