

# Raleigh Fire Department – 2006 to 2019

Research notes by Mike Legeros

Last updated Oct 31, 2019

## Then and Now

	2006	2019	Notes
Stations	26	28	Three new stations opened: 28, 29, 12 Two remodeled stations re-opened: 2, 5 Two temporary stations opened: 2, 22 Active facility projects, construction: 6, 11, 14 Active facility projects, planning: 1, 3, 22, 30, training
Engines	27	29	
Ladders	7	9	Eighth ladder activated 2009 Ninth ladder activated 2015
Rescues	3	1	Three rescues consolidated to one in 2013, along with two squad companies activated
Battalions	4	5	Fifth battalion activated 2012
<b>Training</b>			
Recruit Academy Number	33	44	Academy 33 started September 2006 Academy 44 started April 2019
<b>Authorized Positions</b>			
Office of Fire Chief	7	9	
Office of Fire Marshal	21	37	
Operations	505	553	
Services	9	12	
Training	7	10	
<b>Budget</b>			
Office of Fire Chief	\$672,912	\$3,116,901	
Office of Fire Marshal	\$1,875,144	\$3,680,523	
Operations	\$36,616,188	\$52,047,807	
Services	2,622,804	\$5,076,826	
Training	\$860,167	\$1,593,220	
Total	\$42,733,448	\$65,597,527	
<b>Demographics / Call Volume</b>			
City Population	378,184	458,862	Second total from 2017.
City Size	139.921	147	Second total from 2017.
Annual Calls	32,304 (2005)	42,157	Second total from 2018.

## Milestones – 2006 to 2019

These lists are drawn heavily from the quarterly, and later thrice-yearly Raleigh Fire Department newsletters. Apologies for notable omissions. Incidents and Events include extra-alarm working fires, selective major incidents, and some NCTF8 and NCRRT4 responses.

Year	Milestones	Incidents and Events
2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John T. McGrath appointed fire chief</li> <li>• New drill tower completed</li> <li>• New Haz-Mat 1 delivered</li> <li>• Field Communications Unit placed in service</li> <li>• Truck Companies renamed Ladder Companies</li> <li>• Bicycle team created for special events</li> <li>• Radio system changed to 800mhz, automated voice dispatching starts city/county wide, printers added for station alerting</li> <li>• Eight inspectors moved from Inspections</li> <li>• Facility Manager, Staff Planner, and System Analyst Programmer positions added</li> <li>• Diversity plan for hiring implemented</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three alarms on Banks Hill Row, Rose Lane</li> <li>• Two alarms on Sandy Creek Drive, Clark Avenue, Martin Street, Green Road, Hamilton Club Drive, Summerdale Drive, World Trade Boulevard, Hampshire Place, Poole Road, Cutler Street, Hickory Ridge Drive, Calypso Court, Jasmine Cove, Mill Village Road, Cum Laude Court, Poole Road, Courtney Lane, Wesvill Court</li> <li>• EQ explosion and fire in Apex</li> <li>• North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Memorial dedicated, first annual memorial ceremony in downtown Raleigh</li> </ul>
2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Station 28 opens</li> <li>• Two new rescue trucks delivered, replacing last ambulance-body rescue trucks</li> <li>• New engine, new ladder delivered</li> <li>• Mobile fleet services vehicle added</li> <li>• Full-time fire investigations placed in service</li> <li>• Priority Inspection program started</li> <li>• Fire prevention code changes, after Pine Knoll Townes fire</li> <li>• Uniform shorts for operations personnel added</li> <li>• Fireground rehab services added by Wake County EMS, with addition of new Truck 1</li> <li>• Academy 33 graduates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Six alarms at Pine Knoll Townes</li> <li>• Three alarms on Trillium Court, Bonneville Court, River Run</li> <li>• Two alarms on Brookmont Drive, Cates Avenue, Roselle Court, Sherwee Drive, Meadow Mist Court, Hargrove Road, Nottingham Road, Fargo Court, Blount Street, Six Forks Road</li> <li>• NCFT8 to Holly Springs (trench rescue) and Clayton (plane into building)</li> <li>• Annual National Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament started</li> <li>• First annual Code Saves ceremony with Wake County EMS</li> </ul>

<p><b>2008</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training center expanded with four mobile classrooms</li> <li>• Land acquired for new Station 12</li> <li>• New engine delivered</li> <li>• New fire investigation unit delivered</li> <li>• Swift water rescue unit added, one of four for NCFT8</li> <li>• New high-rise operational procedures</li> <li>• New colored helmet shields and schema</li> <li>• Dress uniform program started<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Commercial occupancy windshield survey, city-wide</li> <li>• Historical Society organized</li> <li>• 1870 fire bell returned to city</li> <li>• Third commemorative book published</li> <li>• Academy 34 graduated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three alarms on Dellcain Court, Hammell Drive</li> <li>• Two alarms on Shoreview Road, Woodbend Drive, Corporation Parkway, Knickerbocker Parkway, Bayridge Crossing, Stonehenge Drive, Byrd Street, Harps Mill Road, Lake Front Drive, Westcliff Court, Rivermist Drive, Shanda Drive, Tall Pines Court, Lane Street, Fox Ridge Manor Court</li> <li>• Major brush fires during day of high winds</li> <li>• Extended incident after ammunition explosion on Garner Road</li> <li>• World Burn Congress held in Raleigh</li> <li>• Lieutenant Herman Jones died on duty, cardiac, third line-of-duty death in department history</li> </ul>
<p><b>2009</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two new engines delivered</li> <li>• Two new aerial platforms delivered</li> <li>• New USAR 1 delivered</li> <li>• Eighth ladder company activated</li> <li>• Ladders, rescues, and other units renumbered</li> <li>• Station generator multi-year program started</li> <li>• First mobile data terminals installed</li> <li>• Helicopter rescue tech program started</li> <li>• Fire Prevention division restructured</li> <li>• Building Construction Division added to Fire Prevention</li> <li>• Seven Inspections members added to Fire Prevention</li> <li>• Hydrant maintenance and painting responsibility transferred to Public Utilities<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• ISO review of city, Class 3 rating continued</li> <li>• Academy 35 graduated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two alarms on Tall Timber Drive, Lofton Place, Evergreen Forest Way, Stockbridge Circle, Blount Street, Shanda Drive, Paula Street, Millbrook Road, Wingate Drive</li> <li>• ConAgra Foods explosion, fire, and structural collapse in Garner</li> <li>• State firefighter conference (SAFRE) returns to Raleigh, first time since 1973. City becomes regular/alternating host.</li> <li>• Ladder 4 overturns, driver safety program initiated</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> After dress uniforms were issued to all firefighters, promotional ceremonies were (re)started. Need date(s).

<sup>2</sup> Correct year for transfer of hydrant maintenance and painting responsibilities, 2010?

<b>2010</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renovated Administrative offices reopened at Dillon Building</li> <li>• Two new engines delivered</li> <li>• New tiller delivered</li> <li>• Safety Office created, Safety Officer placed in service</li> <li>• Platoon Deputy Fire Marshals placed in service</li> <li>• New ops procedures for ladders and rescues</li> <li>• Grant received for mobile, live fire training simulator</li> <li>• First Fire Ops 101 for City Council, by RPFPA</li> <li>• Historical Society renamed Fire Museum</li> <li>• Academy 36 graduated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three alarms on Armadale Lane</li> <li>• Two alarms on St. Giles Street, Arcadian Court, Peyton Street, Milbrook Road, New Hope Church Road, Dillmark Court, Jackson Street, New Bern Avenue, Sanda Drive, Landmark Drive, Midway West Road, Hensley Drive, Grinding Stone Drive</li> <li>• NCRRT4 to Greensboro for tank farm fire</li> </ul>
<b>2011</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New decon trailer delivered</li> <li>• Portable monitors added on engines</li> <li>• New water supply procedures and equipment</li> <li>• New radio procedures + new Emergency Fire Dispatch</li> <li>• Fire prevention code revised</li> <li>• Pre-Incident Survey project</li> <li>• Fire Prevention division renamed Office of the Fire Marshal<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Fire museum opened</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four alarms at Wakefield Plantation Golf Course</li> <li>• Two alarms on Portree Place, Wycliff Road, Wooden Road, Hoyle Drive, Dansey Drive, Reunion Point, Blue Ridge Road, Edwards Mill Road, Farrington Drive, Walden Pond Drive, North Hills Drive, Groveland Avenue, South Street, Avent Ferry Road, Blount Street, Canterbury Road, New Hope Church Road, Crossroads Arbor Way</li> <li>• Tornado heavily damaged city</li> </ul>
<b>2012</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire administration space expanded at Dillon Building</li> <li>• Apparatus storage building erected at Services</li> <li>• Bath house added at training center</li> <li>• New foam trailer delivered</li> <li>• Hydrant blitz + new tablet computers</li> <li>• Fire Investigators relocated to Station 1</li> <li>• Fire Investigation Task Force created</li> <li>• New air monitoring protocols and respirators</li> <li>• 1912 steamer operationally restored</li> <li>• Old Engine 1 purchased by Fire Museum</li> <li>• Academy 37 graduated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two alarms on Hillsborough Street, Pleasant Valley Road, Chapel Hill Road, Lake Hill Drive, Brockton Drive, Glenwood Avenue</li> <li>• First triennial Raleigh Firefighter's Ball</li> <li>• Centennial celebration</li> <li>• Retiree Day<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> Double-checking this year. Name possibly changed in 2012, not 2011.

<sup>4</sup> Event combine the annual chicken 'n' rice luncheon sponsored by the Raleigh Professional Fire Fighters Association, with the year-long centennial celebration. Need date for the first of those luncheons.

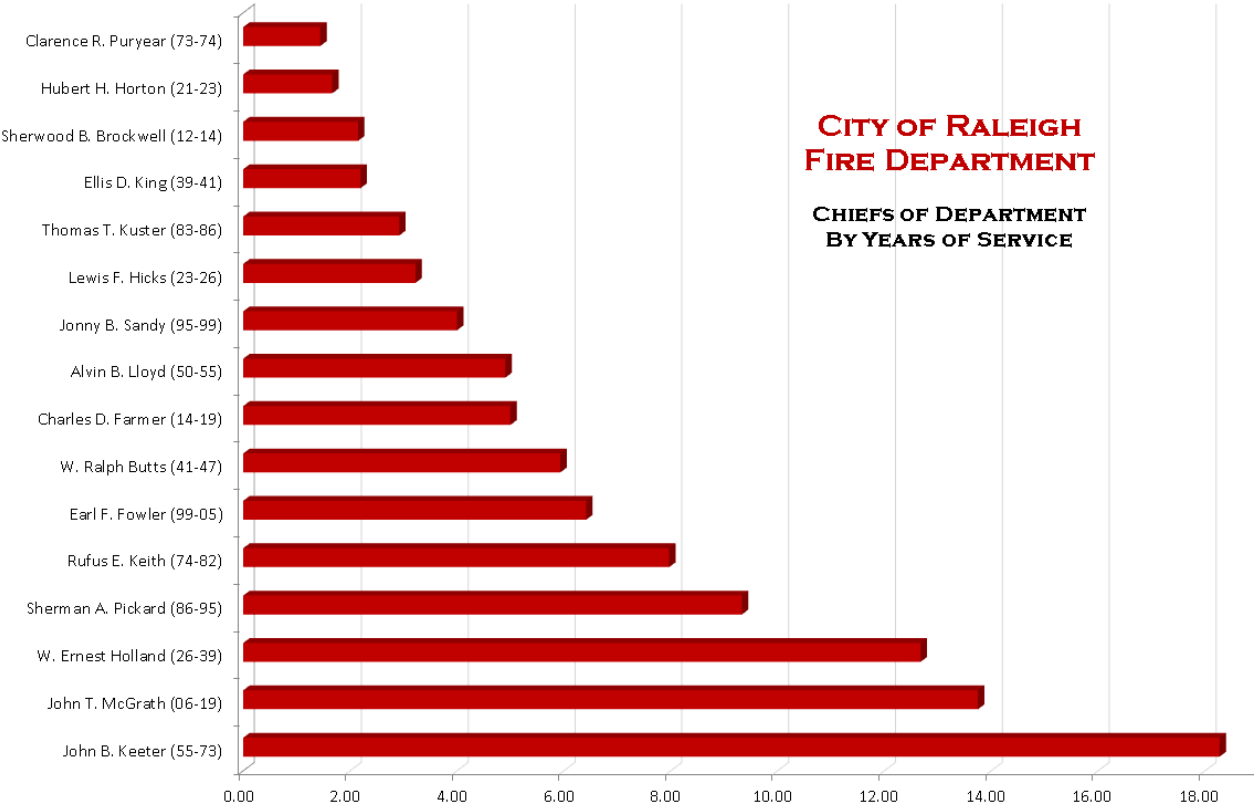
<b>2013</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New haz-mat tractor delivered</li> <li>• Mobile ambulance simulation lab placed in service</li> <li>• Fifth battalion created</li> <li>• Aides created for Division Chiefs</li> <li>• Rescue 1 and two Squad companies activated, part of Special Operations Command changes</li> <li>• New fireground procedures</li> <li>• Handheld radios replaced</li> <li>• Division Chief added at Training</li> <li>• Fourth commemorative book published</li> <li>• Academy 38 graduated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two alarms on Graduate Lane, Woodburn Drive, Calumet Drive, Tryon Hill Road, Manor Valley Court</li> <li>• Tropical storm Andrew brings record-breaking flooding to city, and water rescues in a number of locations</li> </ul>
<b>2014</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land acquired for new Station 14</li> <li>• Two squads (rescue pumpers) delivered</li> <li>• New engine, new aerial platform delivered</li> <li>• New SCBA, Cairns helmets, PPE</li> <li>• New SCBA filling stations added at each battalion HQ station</li> <li>• Priority Fire Inspection Program started</li> <li>• City evaluated by ISO, later receives Class 1</li> <li>• Academy 39 graduated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two alarms on Royal Anne Lane</li> <li>• “Snowmageddon” paralyzes city, after midweek afternoon snowfall</li> </ul>
<b>2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Station 29 opened</li> <li>• Ninth ladder company activated</li> <li>• New engine, second tiller delivered</li> <li>• New, second mobile air unit delivered</li> <li>• Electric extrication tools added</li> <li>• New rescue boats for squad companies</li> <li>• Apartment inspection program</li> <li>• Five-year strategic plan published</li> <li>• Academy 40 graduated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two alarms on Generation Drive, Courtney Lane, Sanderford Road, Quarter Point, Hampshire Place, Atlantic Avenue</li> <li>• Construction scaffolding collapse on Fayetteville Street</li> <li>• NCTF8 deployed after Hurricane Joaquin</li> </ul>

<b>2016</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Station 5 reopens after renovations</li> <li>• Temporary Station 2 opens, first with folding doors since 1940s</li> <li>• Land purchased for Station 30</li> <li>• Sprinkler system installed in Station 15</li> <li>• Services expanded vehicle repair capabilities with additional vehicle lifts</li> <li>• City receives ISO Class 1 rating</li> <li>• SAFER grant for \$1.3M awarded</li> <li>• Fire &amp; Life Safety Division expanded</li> <li>• Hydrant color change multi-year program started</li> <li>• Behavioral health initiative started</li> <li>• Division Chief added at Services</li> <li>• Raleigh Firefighters United advocacy group organized by members</li> <li>• Academy 41 graduated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two alarms on Western Boulevard, Edwards Mill Road, Pumpkin Ridge Way, Blount Street</li> <li>• Widespread flooding and water rescues in city/county after Hurricane Matthew</li> <li>• NCTF8 and NCRRT4 deployed for Hurricane Matthew</li> <li>• Mutual aid to western NC, for Chimney Rock fire</li> <li>• Multi-patient incident at Crabtree Valley Mall</li> </ul>
<b>2017</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Station 2 reopened after renovations</li> <li>• Station 6 demolished for rebuild</li> <li>• Two engines delivered</li> <li>• Third tiller delivered</li> <li>• PPE extractor multi-year installation program started</li> <li>• New annual hiring process started</li> <li>• Academy 42 graduated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five alarms at the Metropolitan Apartments</li> <li>• Two alarms on Prince Georges Lane, Parkville Drive</li> <li>• NCTF8 to Texas after Hurricane Harvey</li> </ul>
<b>2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Station 12 opens, Division Chief relocated from Station 8</li> <li>• Construction started on Station 6</li> <li>• Land acquired for new Station 3</li> <li>• Two new engines delivered</li> <li>• Fourth tiller delivered</li> <li>• New heavy rescue delivered, first walk-in style since 1950s</li> <li>• Two new mini-pumpers delivered</li> <li>• Haz-mat companies and units relocated</li> <li>• Academy 43 graduated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three alarms at Glenwood Towers</li> <li>• Two alarms on Dansey Drive, Settle In Lane, Brook Knoll Place</li> <li>• NCTF8 to eastern NC for Hurricane Florence</li> </ul>

<p><b>2019</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Station 22 demolished</li> <li>• Temporary Station 22 opened</li> <li>• Station 14 construction started</li> <li>• Station 11 renovations started</li> <li>• Three new engines delivered</li> <li>• Trench rescue trailers added</li> <li>• Sprinkler/fire alarm training trailer delivered</li> <li>• New CAD system for city/county</li> <li>• Academy 44 graduating</li> <li>• Fire Chief John T. McGrath retiring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two alarms on Crossroads Arbor Way, New Hope Road, Millbrook Road</li> <li>• NCTF8 and NCRRT4 to Durham, after building explosion</li> <li>• Asst. Chief Keith Tessinear died of cancer, may be ruled as occupational, e.g. line of duty death<sup>5</sup></li> </ul>
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**Afterword**

This document was created by Mike Legeros, for the occasion of the retirement of Raleigh Fire Chief John T. McGrath on October 31, 2019. He retired as the city’s second longest-serving fire chief and with numerous accomplishments for the department.



<sup>5</sup> Seven members have died off-duty between 2006 and 2019: George E. Crocker (2008), Andrew J. Johnson (2009), Henry P. Kissinger (2010), Jonathan S. Nipper (2011), Morgan J. McLamb (2013), Joseph A. Carroll (2014), and W. Keith Tessinear (2019). Senior Firefighter Crocker’s death was ruled as line-of-duty for the Selma Fire Department.