

# IGA Grocery Store Fire - December 20, 1992

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This is version 2.0 of this document, created November 25, 2013.

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## Incident Summary

### Introduction

- Sectors are 1 (front), 2 (inside), 3 (rear), 4 (left), 5 (right), 6 (roof), 7 (staging).

### First Alarm

- IGA Grocery Store at 718 N. Person Street.
- E3, E7, T1, R7, C52 dispatched at 11:34 p.m.
- Engine 3 arriving.
- Smoke showing from rear of store around room-mounted air-condition units upon arrival.
- C52 records heavy smoke conditions throughout and all around building.
- Engine 3 declares Code 3, results in automatic dispatch of second alarm, and other operational steps.

### Second Alarm

- E4, E11, T11, R6, C51 dispatched at 11:39 p.m.
- Crews attempt to force door in rear of building.
- Two crews (with two hand lines) enter front of store at approximately 11:55 p.m.
- Engine 3 supplies hand lines to front door.
- Engine 11 supplies hand lines to Sector 5 (right of building).
- Attack crew notices ceiling tiles on floor indicating fire overheard.
- Volume of fire grows and moves to front of store.
- Two crews inside unable to extinguish fire.
- Command changes to aerial operations using three aerials.
- Fire begins showing [outside of building?] at approximately 11:53 p.m.
- Truck 1 (snorkel) positions to Sector 4 (left of building), supplied by Engine 7, and operates master stream onto roof.

### Third Alarm

- E16, E6, T16 dispatched at 12:07 a.m.
- Crews ordered to withdraw from building at approximately 12:10 a.m.
- Additional truck companies establish master streams at front and right side of building.
- Engine 6 supplies Truck 16 for about two hours, from hydrant at corner of Franklin and Blount streets.
- Hand lines required to cool apparatus from radiant heat.
- Mansard-style canopy on three sides of building becomes fully involved and collapses into parking lot.

### Rescue

- Rescue 7 arrives on first alarm, helps with fire suppression. Notes Rescue 6 set up rehab.
- Rescue 6 arrives on second alarm. Assists with entry, suppression, overhaul, rehab.

### Leaving the Scene

- T1 in service, 2:08 a.m.
- E4 in service, 2:15 a.m.
- E16, T16 in service at 3:17 a.m.
- R6 in service, 3:36 a.m.
- E11 in service, 3:54 a.m.
- E6 in service at 3:57 a.m.
- T11 in service, 4:28 a.m.
- R7 in service, 5:11 a.m.
- E7 in service, 8:51 a.m.

### Relief Companies

- C53 fills in at Station 1, 11:45 p.m.
- E13 reports to Station 11, 11:52 p.m.
- E14 reports to scene for overhaul, 3:01 a.m.
- E1 arrives on scene for relief, 3:08 a.m.
- E1 fills in for Engine 3 at Station 3, 3:25 a.m.
- E14 fills in for Engine 7 at Station 7, 3:45 a.m.
- E13 back at Station 1, 3:54 a.m.
- C53 takes command on scene, 5:55 a.m.
- E14 back at Station 14, 8:00 a.m.

### Day After

- E3, T1, R7, C52 return to fire scene.
- Other companies to training center (E7, E11), for hose washing.
- Crews do not re-enter until following day.
- Store and contents are total loss.
- Five sections of five-inch hose and a pick-head axe from Engine 3 are lost.
- Two two-inch nozzles from Engine 3 are damaged.

- Fire units released from fire scene at 5:30 p.m. Police provide security.

#### Causalities, Units

- Three firefighters are injured and treated on the scene for smoke inhalation.
- E3, E7, T1, R7, C52, E4, E11, T11, R6, C51, E6, E16, T16, E1 relief, E14 relief, C1, C2, C3, C10.

#### Investigation

- Investigation continues on second day after fire, December 22.
- Engine 13 and Z. Overton from Station 1 assist Car 198, that morning and early afternoon.
- Area of origin narrowed to ceiling space in rear of store.
- Due to extensive damage, source not identified.
- Arson ruled out.

#### Sources

- Oral histories.
- Newspaper articles.
- Raleigh Fire Department official records, including station log books.

#### Photographs



Jeff Harkey, Raleigh Fire Department photo unit.



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News & Observer



John Rottet, *News & Observer*.



*News & Observer*.



*News & Observer.*



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