

Raleigh Fire Department Volunteer Fire Company Histories

Version 1.2 – 11/25/11

Early Fire Companies

Organized 1819, 1823, 1840, 1843

- Organized after delivery of hand engine in March 1819.
- First fire engine and first fire company in city.
- Disbanded by 1823.
- New fire company organized in 1823, operates 1819 hand engine.
- Raleigh Fire Company organized by March 10, 1840, operates 1819 hand engine.
- Perseverance Fire Company organized by April 14, 1843, takes name from new 1843 hand engine.

Fire Company No. 1, Fire Company No. 2, Hook and Ladder Company

Organized 1852

- City ordinance of February 1852 authorizes organization of three fire companies.
- Fire Company No. 1 organized February 28, 1852.
- Fire Company No. 2 organized at same time.
- Operate 1819 and 1843 hand engines.
- Hook and Ladder Company organized March 3, 1852.

Excelsior Company, Rescue Company

Organized 1853

- Fire Company No. 1 renamed Excelsior Company by March 27, 1853, after delivery of hand engine named Excelsior.
- Fire Company No. 2 renamed Rescue Company by August 26, 1853, after delivery of hand engine named Rescue.
- Apparatus stored in Market House addition by August 26, 1853.
- Market House addition is city's first fire department building.

Fire Company No. 1, Fire Company No. 2

Organized 1856

- Excelsior and Rescue companies renamed No. 1 and No. 2 by 1856.
- Each operates 1853 hand engine.

Fire Company No. 1

Organized 1866

- Organized by some of the younger men who served in the Confederate Army.
- Operate one of two 1853 hand engines.
- Disbanded in 1868.

Fire Company No. 2

Organized 1866

- Also organized by some of the younger men who served in the Confederate Army.
- Operate one of two 1853 hand engines.
- Disbanded in 1870.

Hook and Ladder Company

Organized 1867

- Organized by February 11, 1867.
- Operated hand-drawn ladder truck.
- Apparatus housed in Metropolitan Hall after May 17, 1870.
- Chartered on February 8, 1872.
- New hand-drawn ladder truck delivered after April 24, 1872.
- Apparatus housed in dedicated engine house in 100 block of W. Morgan Street by 1890.
- New horse-drawn ladder truck delivered by July 1, 1890.
- Horse drawn in 1890.
- Housed at Headquarters Fire Station at 112 W. Morgan Street by February 1896.
- Disbanded after December 23, 1912.

Bucket Company

Organized 1867

- Organized by November 19, 1867.
- Disbanded by 1872.

Fire Company No. 1 (colored)

Organized 1869

- Organized by January 27, 1869.
- Operated one of two 1852 hand engines.
- Renamed Victor Fire Company in 1870.

Merchants Independents Fire Company

Organized 1869

- Organized by April 29, 1869.
- Operated one of two 1852 hand engines.
- Split into two fire companies in 1870, Rescue Steam Fire Engine Company and Mechanics Fire Company No 2.

Rescue Steam Fire Engine Company

Organized 1870

- Organized by members of Merchants Independent Fire Company.
- Chartered February 24, 1870.
- Operated 1870 Gould steam fire engine, delivered April 3, 1870.
- Steamer hand-drawn, except for parades and other special occasions.
- Engine house in 300 block of Fayetteville Street, opened September 17, 1870.
- Horse drawn after September 5, 1879.
- Renamed Rescue Hose Company in 1887.

Mechanics Fire Company No. 2

Organized 1870

- Organized by remaining members of Merchants Independent Fire Company by May 18, 1870.
- Operated 1852 hand engine.
- Disbanded by July 27, 1871.

Victor Company (colored)

Organized 1870

- Formerly named Fire Company No. 1.
- Apparatus housed in Metropolitan Hall after May 17, 1870.
- Named after winning State Fair competition on October 20, 1870.
- Chartered January 23, 1872.
- Operated 1852 hand engine.
- Rumsey hand engine delivered after June 13, 1875.
- Horse drawn after November 6, 1885.
- Operated horse-drawn hose reel beginning March 1, 1890.
- Moved to former Phoenix Chemical Company station on City Lot at Davie and Salisbury Streets by February 28, 1891.
- Engine house burns on April 7, 1897.
- Temporary quarters in warehouse.
- Horse-drawn hose wagon delivered by July 20, 1897.
- New engine house at 135 E. Hargett Street opened April 2, 1898.
- Disbanded after December 23, 1912.

Bucket Company (colored)

Organized 1872

- Organized by September 11, 1872.
- Operated hand-drawn equipment truck.
- Apparatus housed in Metropolitan Hall after May 17, 1870.
- Chartered February 28, 1873
- New hand truck delivered after December 9, 1875.
- Disbanded after January 8, 1892.

Phoenix Chemical Company

Organized 1878

- Organized in January 1878.
- Operated hand-drawn single-tank Champion chemical engine.
- Engine house located on Wilmington Street in front of Jackson's Stables, opened after February 4, 1881.
- Double-tank Champion chemical engine delivered on March 19, 1881.
- Engine house moved to City Lot at Davie and Salisbury streets after September 4, 1882.
- Horse-drawn by July 14, 1883.
- Hose company proposed on August 5, 1887, after installation fire hydrants.
- Disbanded by 1890.

Eureka Fire Company

Organized 1883

- Organized by April 6, 1883.
- Operated 1852 hand engine and fire equipment located at cotton yard.

Rescue Hose Company

Organized 1887

- Formerly named Rescue Steam Fire Engine Company.
- Organized after installation of fire hydrants.
- Horse-drawn.
- Engine house located in 300 block of Fayetteville Street.
- Disbanded after December 23, 1912.

Capital Hose Company

Organized 1887

- Organized on June 15, 1887, after installation of fire hydrants.
- Operated hand-drawn hose reel.
- Apparatus first housed at E. H. Lee's stables.
- Engine house at 117 W. Morgan Street opened November 4, 1887.
- Horse-drawn after July 5, 1889.
- Horse-drawn hose wagon delivered July 30, 1889.
- Engine house moved to new building opposite 117 W. Morgan Street in August 1889.
- Housed at Headquarters Fire Station at 112 W. Morgan Street by February 1896.
- Disbanded after December 23, 1912.

Independent Hose Company

Organized 1887

- Organized by July 1, 1887, after installation of fire hydrants.
- Operated hand-drawn hose reel.
- Engine house in rented residence on Morgan Street west of Blount Street, opened by February 10, 1888.
- Disbanded by 1890.

L.A. Mahler Steamer Company

Organized 1906

- Organized after delivery of 1905 American LaFrance steam engine.
- Housed at Fire Department Headquarters at 112 W. Morgan Street.
- Disbanded after December 23, 1912.