

Largest Fire Departments

	City Pop.	City Size	Personnel	Stations	Engines	Ladders
Charlotte	658,848	280.5	1083	38	39	14
Raleigh	367,995	139.9	553	27	28	7
Greensboro	267,072	136.9	476	22	22	7
Winston-Salem	221,014	133.2	340	19	18	5
Durham	212,568	104.0	301	15	15	5
Asheville	74,307	58.2	228	9	9	5
High Point	95,630	70.0	224	14	13	3
Wilmington	98,529	54.3	220	11	11	2
Cary	122,333	53.4	209	7	7	3
Concord	65,431	58.9	161	8	8	2
Gastonia	70,243	49.3	145	8	6	3
Hickory	43,422	42.6	126	7	6	1

2007 data

Largest Early Fires

- 1816 – Raleigh – 51 buildings
- 1831 – Fayetteville – 600+ structures
- 1849 – Greensboro – Business district
- 1854 – Statesville – Half of town
- 1880 – Durham – Half of town
- 1886 – Wilmington – Waterfront
- 1887 – Clinton – 49 buildings
- 1918 – Charlotte – 48 homes, 250 homeless
- **1922 – New Bern** ▶
 - 40 blocks
 - 1,000+ buildings
 - 3,000 homeless



Deadliest Fires

- Hamlet, Sep 3, 1991 – 25 died in factory
- Charlotte, Mar 15, 1940 – 9 died in apartment
- Asheville, Mar 10, 1948 – 9 died in hospital
- Maxton, Nov 18, 1989 – 9 died in mobile home
- Laurinburg, Mar 17, 1996 – 8 died in nursing home
- Bakersville, May 5, 2005 – 8 died in jail
- Asheville, Apr 3, 1903 – 7 died in residence
- Henderson, Jan 22, 1985 – 7 died in residence
- Rocky Mount, Nov 11, 2000 – 7 died in residence

Asheville Photo

Deadliest Explosions

- Chatham County, May 27, 1925
53 killed in mine explosion
- Craven County, May 26, 1864
40 killed in munitions railcar explosion
- Lee County, Dec 19, 1895
39 killed in mine explosion
- Altapass, May 11, 1907
9 killed in explosion during railroad tunnel construction
- **Johnston County, Mar 7, 1942**
7 killed in munitions truck explosion
Over 100 injured ▶



Deadliest for Firefighters

- **Four killed, May 25, 1979**
Shelby FD, explosion and building collapse ▶
- Four killed, Sep 7, 1982
National Spinning Company FB, smoke blast
- Three killed, Jan 1, 1926
Lexington FD, engine collided with car
- Two killed
Jul 1, 1914 – Charlotte FD, explosion at barn fire
Nov 19, 1973 – Forest Service, plane crash
Nov 6, 1998 – Arrington FD, Thoroughfare FD, trapped in warehouse fire
Sep 7, 2000 – Forest Service, helicopter crash
Mar 7, 2008 – Salisbury FD, trapped in plant fire



Lem Lynch Photos

Deadliest Accidents

- Hendersonville, Jul 19, 1967 – Plane crash kills 82
- Rennert, Dec 16, 1943 – Train crash kills 74
- Charlotte, Sep 11, 1974 – Plane crash kills 72
- Charlotte, Jul 2, 1994 – Plane crash kills 37
- Brunswick County, Jan 6, 1960 – Plane crash kills 34
- Hamlet, Jul 22, 1906 – Train crash kills 29
- Statesville, Aug. 26?, 1891 – Train crash kills 25
- Maxton, Sep 20, 1943 – Plane crash kills 25

Hendersonville Photo

Oldest Active Fire Stations

- 1908 – Henderson – Station 2 ▶
- 1924 – Asheville – Station 1 ▶
- 1929 – Charlotte – Station 5, Station 6
- 1935 – Charlotte – Station 7
- 1935 – Lillington FD
- 1942 – Fayetteville – Station 2 ▶
- 1948 – Charlotte – Station 8
- 1949 – Raleigh – Station 6



Oldest Retired Fire Stations

- 1803 – Old Salem – Old Market Firehouse
- 1818 – New Bern – Old City Hall ▶
- 1848 – Monroe – Old City Hall
- 1884 – Washington – Old Town Hall
- 1887 – Raleigh – Old Capital Hose House
- 1890 – Durham – Old Station 1 ▶
- 1891 – Goldsboro – Old Station
- 1893 – New Bern – Old Station
- 1894 – Asheville – Old Station 5
- 1895 – Kinston – Old Station 1 ▶

