


The History of the Raleigh Fire Department

Presented by Mike Legeros
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www.legeros.com/slides

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Presenter Information

- ▣ Digital marketer, day job
- ▣ Former Raleigh firefighter
- ▣ Official historian
- ▣ Incident photographer
- ▣ Author
- ▣ Buff
- ▣ mikey@legeros.com
- ▣ www.legeros.com



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Raleigh Fire Museum

www.raleighfiremuseum.org




4



Today




5



How did we get here?

6



Milestones

1792
City of Raleigh created.

1819
First fire engine and fire company.

1852
Fire department organization created.

1912
Fully-paid fire department created.

7



Going Back in Time






1900s

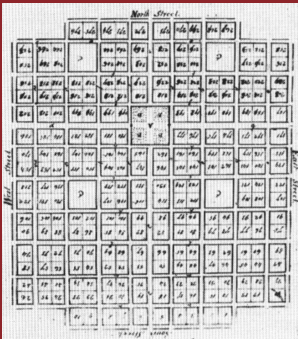
1800s

1700s

8




1792



- City of Raleigh created
- One square mile
- 699 residents by 1803

9



1792

How to protect from fire?

Prevent fires

Extinguish fires

10




1792

Early fire protection measures:

- Planners design **wide streets**, to help prevent fire spread.
- Many **trees** also left intact, to also help.
- No **wooden structures** added to building fronts. Early regulation.

11



1802

Fire Engine.

The Subscribers to the Fund for purchasing a Fire Engine for the use of this City, are requested to meet at the Court House, on Friday next, at four o'clock, for the Purpose of giving an Order for the Purchase of the Engine and other Apparatus, (a Sufficiency of Money for the Purpose being subscribed) and for forming a Fire Company.

As the Articles of Association will be drawn at this Meeting, and the Officers of the Company elected, it is hoped that a full Attendance will be given.

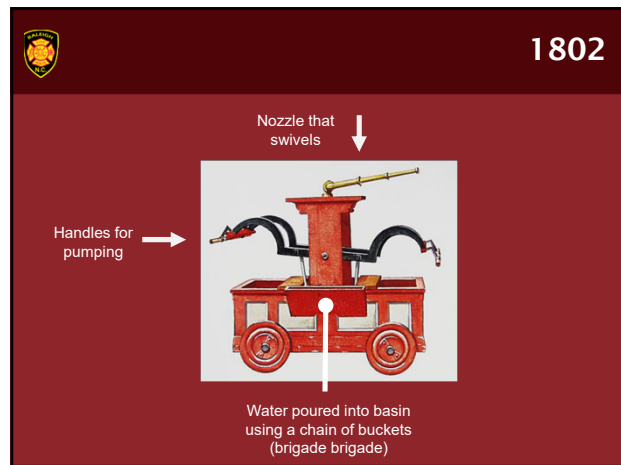
August 16.

12



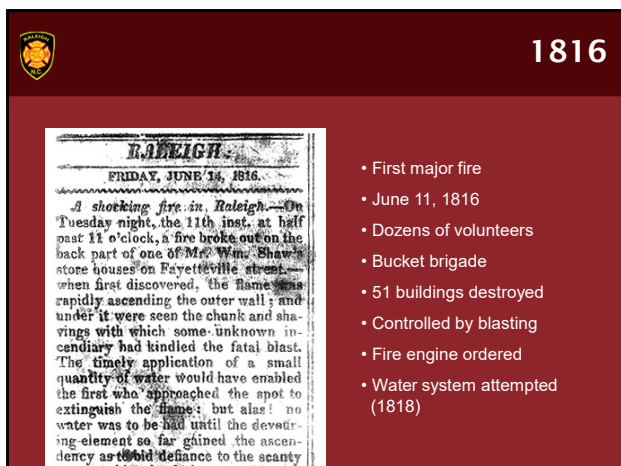
1802

13



1802

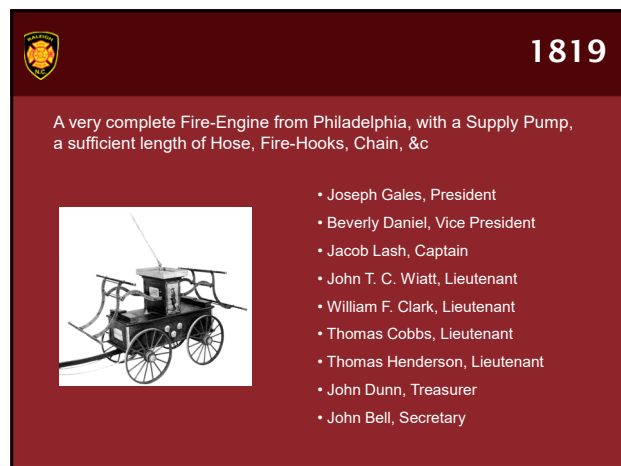
14



1816

- First major fire
- June 11, 1816
- Dozens of volunteers
- Bucket brigade
- 51 buildings destroyed
- Controlled by blasting
- Fire engine ordered
- Water system attempted (1818)

15



1819

A very complete Fire-Engine from Philadelphia, with a Supply Pump, a sufficient length of Hose, Fire-Hooks, Chain, &c

- Joseph Gales, President
- Beverly Daniel, Vice President
- Jacob Lash, Captain
- John T. C. Wiatt, Lieutenant
- William F. Clark, Lieutenant
- Thomas Cobbs, Lieutenant
- Thomas Henderson, Lieutenant
- John Dunn, Treasurer
- John Bell, Secretary

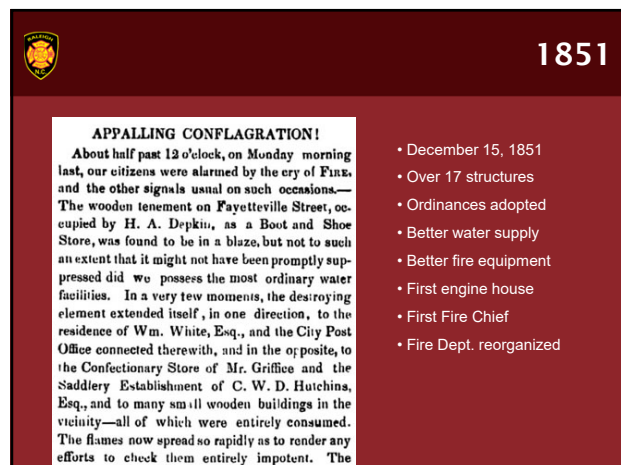
16



1819 to 1843

- 1821**
Firemen exempt from militia duty.
- 1826**
Citizens can be drafted for firefighting.
- 1831**
State Capitol burns. Stone and brick for government buildings.
- 1838**
Building regulations for fire protection.
- 1843**
Second fire engine, second fire company.

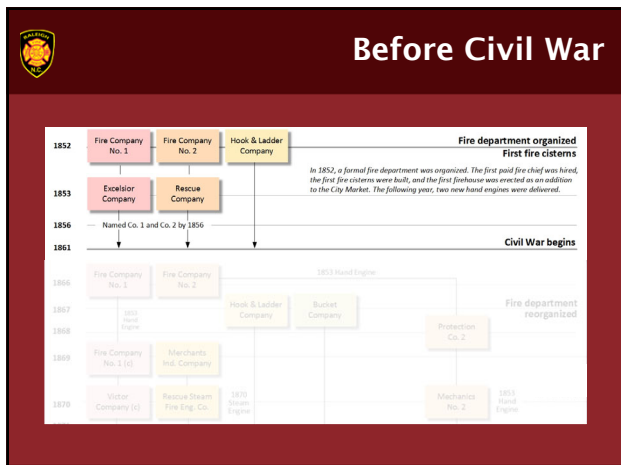
17



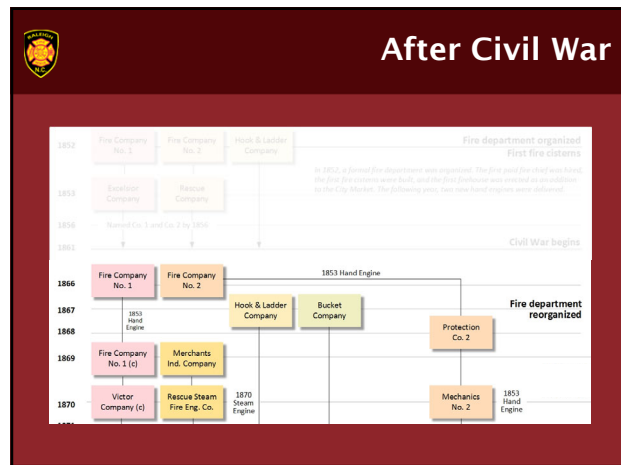
1851

- APPALLING CONFLAGRATION!**
- About half past 12 o'clock, on Monday morning last, our citizens were alarmed by the cry of FIRE, and the other signals usual on such occasions.—The wooden tenement on Fayetteville Street, occupied by H. A. Depkin, as a Boot and Shoe Store, was found to be in a blaze, but not to such an extent that it might not have been promptly suppressed did we possess the most ordinary water facilities. In a very few moments, the destroying element extended itself, in one direction, to the residence of Wm. White, Esq., and the City Post Office connected therewith, and in the opposite, to the Confectionary Store of Mr. Griffice and the Saddlery Establishment of C. W. D. Hutchins, Esq., and to many small wooden buildings in the vicinity—all of which were entirely consumed. The flames now spread so rapidly as to render any efforts to check them entirely impotent. The
- December 15, 1851
 - Over 17 structures
 - Ordinances adopted
 - Better water supply
 - Better fire equipment
 - First engine house
 - First Fire Chief
 - Fire Dept. reorganized

18



19



20

Let's interrupt our timeline...

21

Apparatus


22

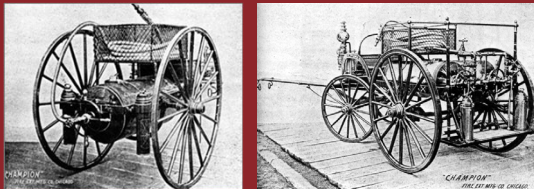


23




24



 **1878, 1881**



Champion Chemical Engines


25


 **1852 to 1890**


Hook and Ladder Trucks

26

 **1852 to 1890**




← "Working" Truck
"Racing" Truck
↓




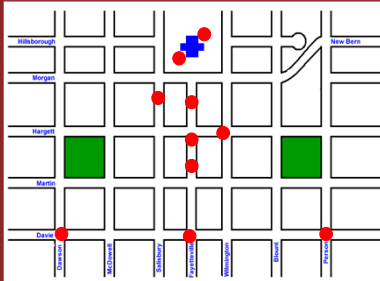
Hook and Ladder Trucks

27

 **Water Supply**

28


 **1852 to 1887**




Capacity in No. of gallons.	Number of Openings.
40,000	2
7,000	1
7,000	1
7,000	1
10,000	1
30,000	2
30,000	2
40,000	2
30,000	2
30,000	2
30,000	2
50,000	1
50,000	1

Fire Cisterns

29

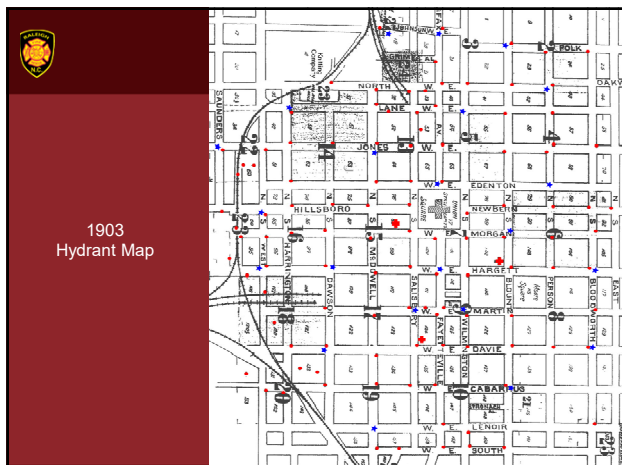
 **1887**



STOCK PHOTO NOT RALEIGH

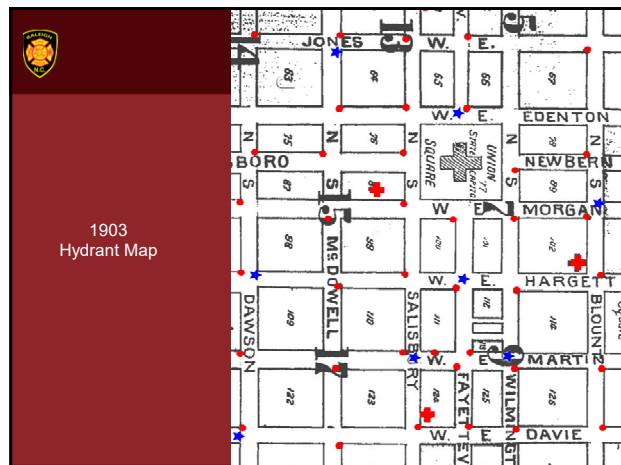
- Made by Matthews.
- 120 hydrants, double outlets.
- 64 to 80 pounds PSI, 144 to 161 gallons per minute.
- Eight hydrants supplying eight streams.
- Direct pressure on request.

30



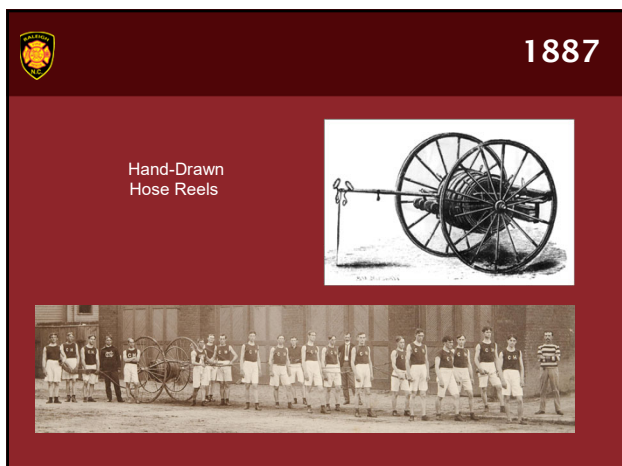
1903
Hydrant Map

31



1903
Hydrant Map

32



Hand-Drawn
Hose Reels

1887

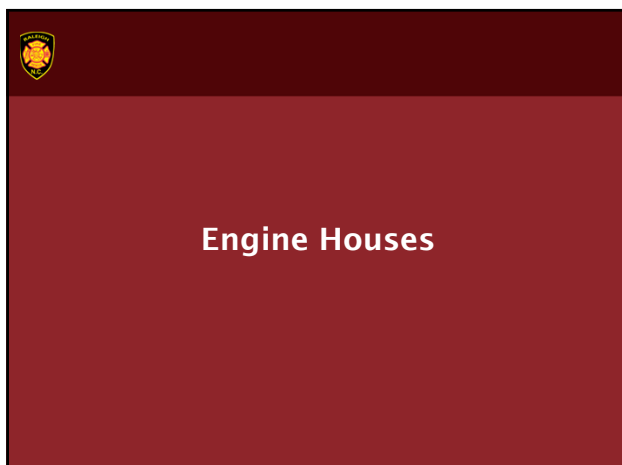
33



Horse-Drawn Hose Wagons

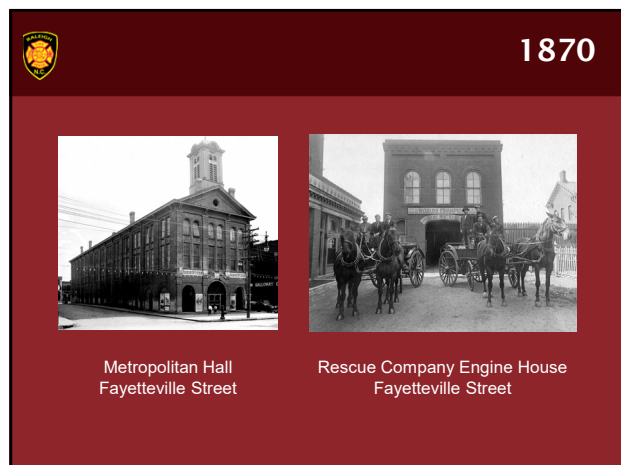
1890

34



Engine Houses

35



Metropolitan Hall
Fayetteville Street

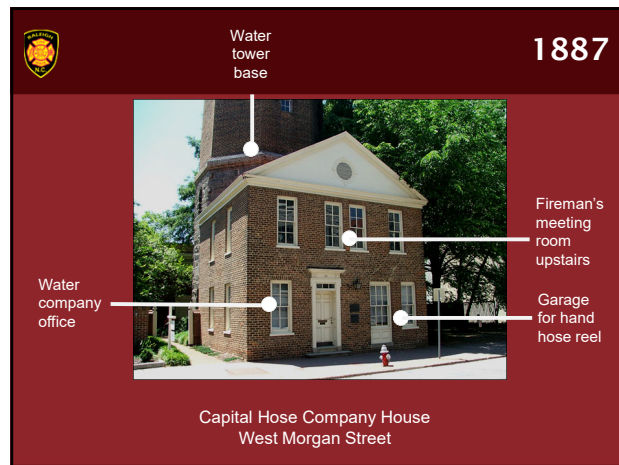
Rescue Company Engine House
Fayetteville Street

1870

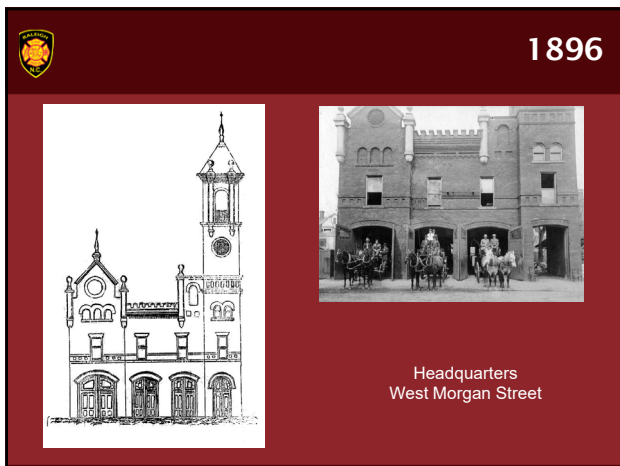
36



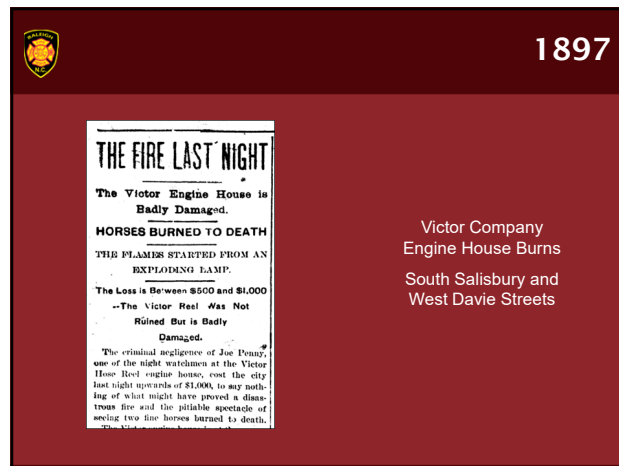
37



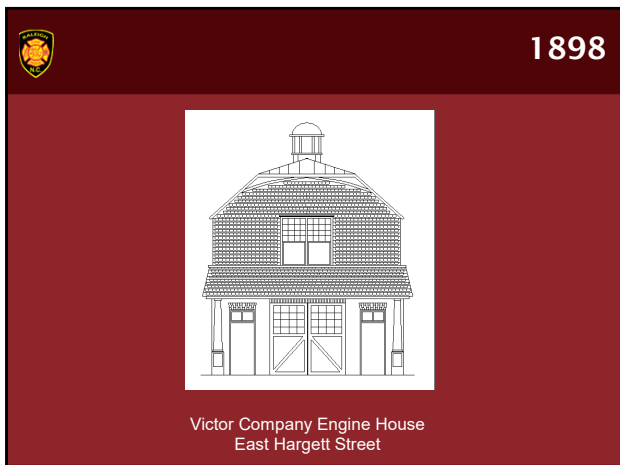
38



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40




41




42




1888



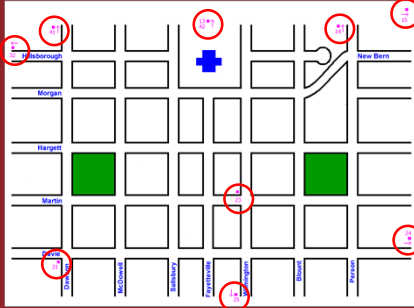
Street Box - Alarm Bell



43




1888




Original locations of alarm boxes

44



Back to our timeline...


45



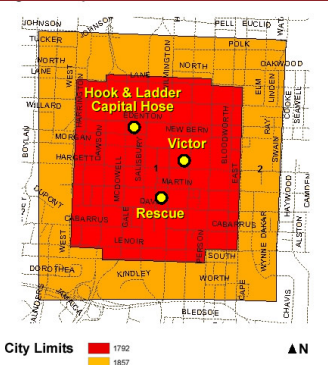
1870 to 1890

- First steam engine (1870)
- First chemical engine (1878)
- First fire horses (1879)
- First fire hydrants, first hose companies (1887)
- Fire alarm system installed (1888)
- Last hand-drawn apparatus (1890)

46



1900



City Limits

1792

1857

▲ N

Demographics

1.8 square miles

13,643 residents

Three fire stations

90 members

47

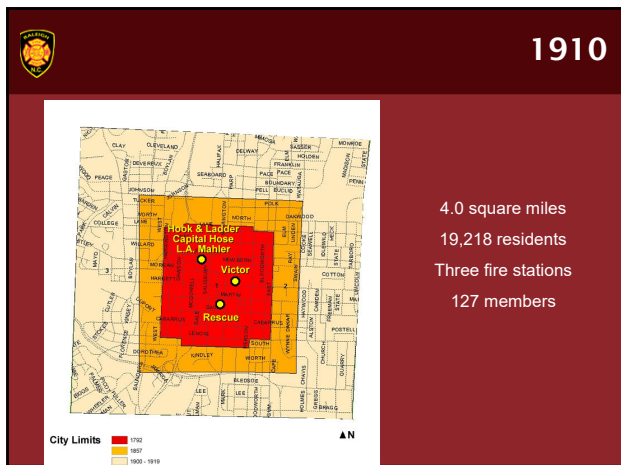


1905




New American LaFrance Steamer
New Steam Engine Fire Company

48



49




1912

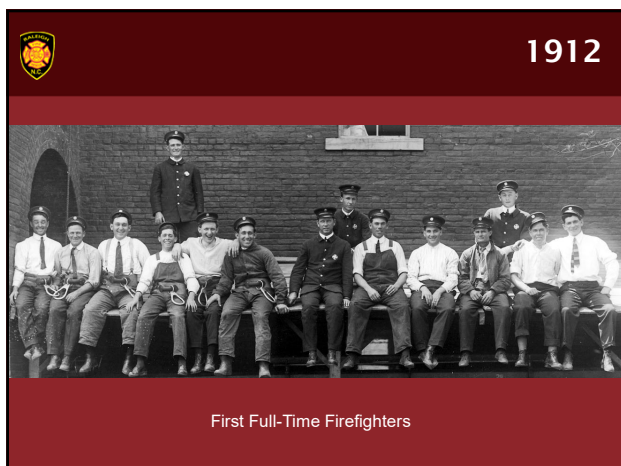
**RALEIGH WILL HAVE
A PAID DEPARTMENT**

First Class Fire-Fighting Apparatus to Cost
Less Than \$35,000 Will Be Installed By
Capital City at Early Date

Fully-Paid Fire Department
Fire Chief Sherwood Brockwell



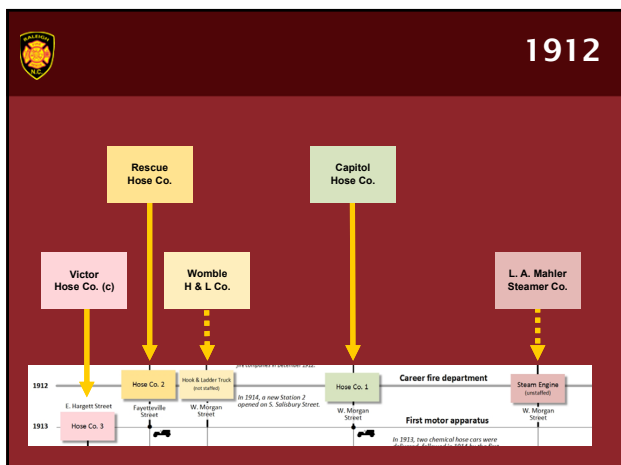
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51



52




53



1913

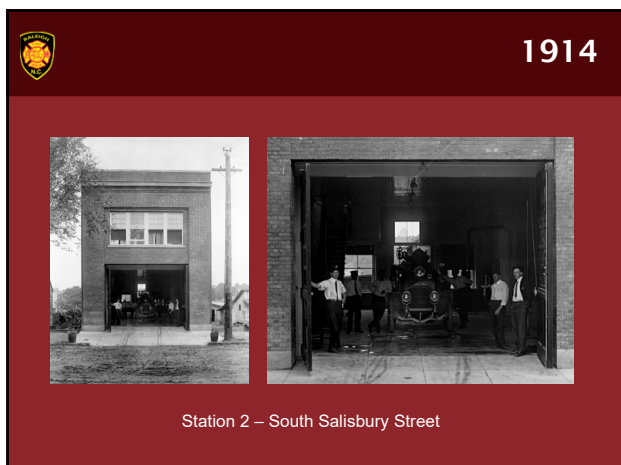
**FIRE WAGONS
ARE ENROUTE**

Automobile Trucks Expected
to Reach Raleigh
By Tomorrow

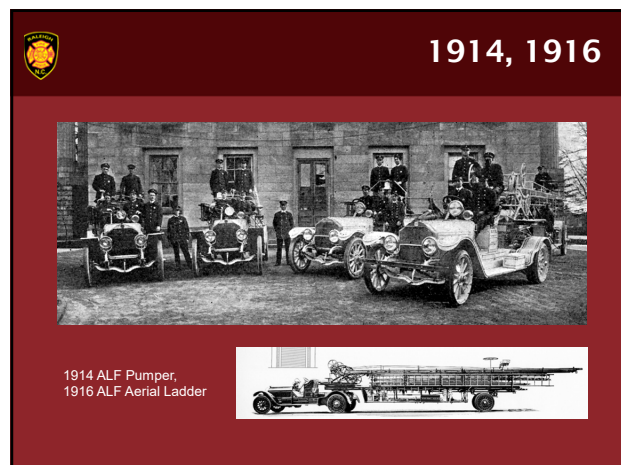


American LaFrance
Chemical/Hose Cars

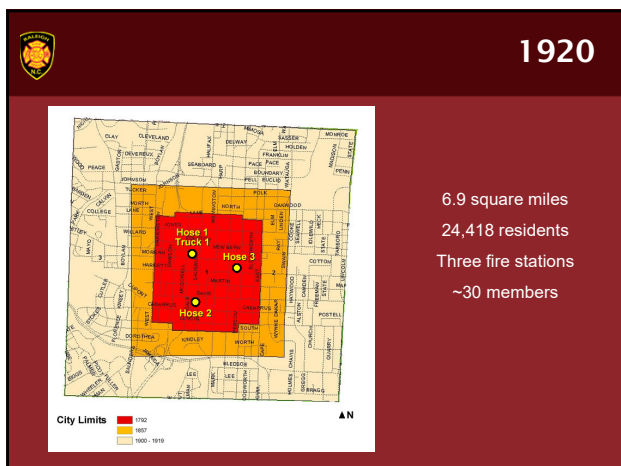
54



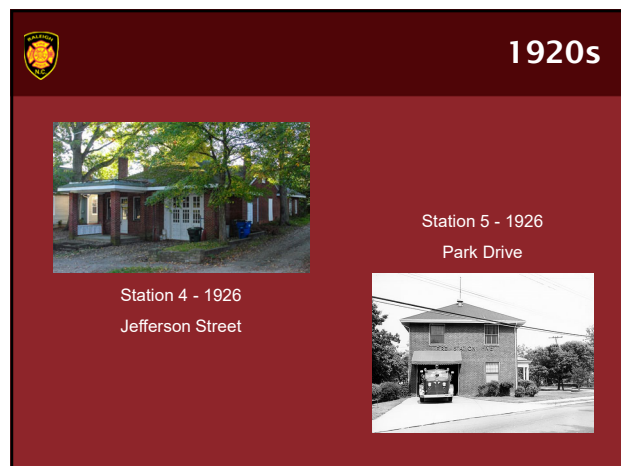
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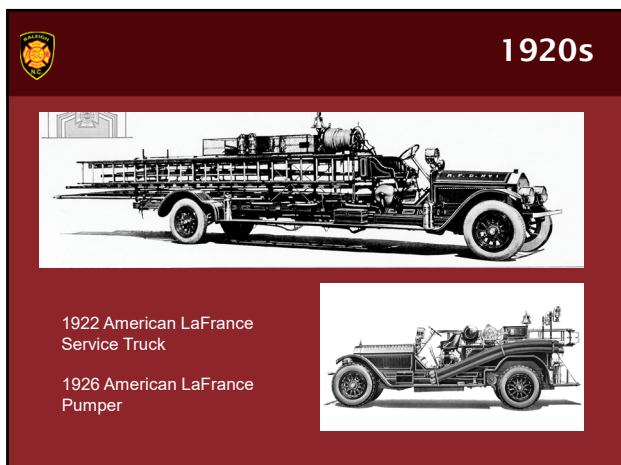
56



57



58



59

1924	
Two Platoons Created	
Day Watch	0800 to 1145 1145 to 1530 1530 to 1900
Night Watch	1900 to 2230 2230 to 0130 0130 to 0430 0430 to 0800

60




1910 to 1929

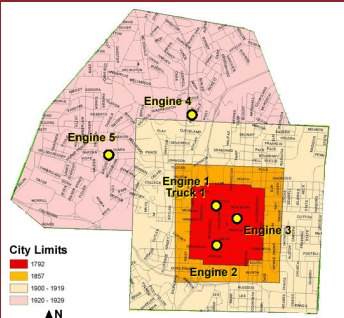
- April 24, 1913 - News & Observer building
- March 25, 1914 - Tompkins Hall, A&M College
- April 10, 1926 - Insane Asylum
- July 3, 1928 - Yarborough Hotel



61




1930

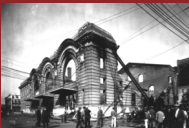


7.6 square miles
37,379 residents
Five fire stations
56 members


62




1930s




City Auditorium, 1930



New 1936 Pumper




Station 2 at Memorial Auditorium, Opened 1932





1939 Tractor for 1916 Tiller

63




1930s



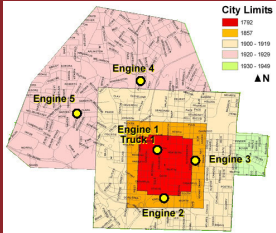


- 1935 - Civil service protection gained.
- 1938 - Local 548 of IAFF chartered.
- 1959 - Ceased operations after state ruling.
- 1968 - State ruling overturned by feds.
- 1969 - Local 548 re-chartered.
- 1986 - Local 548 re-chartered again.

64




1940





10.88 square miles
46,897 residents
Five fire stations
~56 members

65




1941



- Station 1 on Morgan Street closed.
- Engine 1 moved to Old Station 2 on Salisbury Street.
- Aerial ladder and service truck moved to Station 2 at Memorial Auditorium.
- Engine 2 moved to Station 1 on Salisbury Street.

66



1941

World War II


Civil Defense

Air-Raid Drills

Auxiliary Firefighters



Materials Restrictions

67



1940s

Station 6


Opened 1943

2519 Fairview Road



Moved 1949

2602 Fairview Road

68





1940s

1948 Ford Auxiliary Truck

1919 American LaFrance

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

24 Hour Shifts

69



1949




1949 FWD Pumper



1950 Mack Pumper



70




1949


Fire Prevention Bureau Formed

71




1930 to 1949

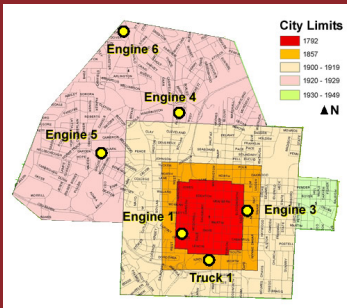
- March 25, 1935 - Efid's Department Store
- May 18, 1939 - Norfolk Southern Railway Shops
- January 7, 1943 - Wake County Group Home
- December 29, 1943 - Bellas Hess Clothing Store
- February 1, 1948 - Carolina Country Club



72



1950



10.88 square miles

65,679 residents

Six fire stations

67 members

73



1950s



1951 ▶

◀ 1953

New Station 1



1953 ▶

1958 ▶



American LaFrance Pumper



American LaFrance Aerial Ladder

74



1950s



1954 ▶

◀ 1951

Station 3

Ladies Auxiliary



Training Tower

Station 7



◀ 1951

1959 ▶

75




March 10, 1956





Line of Duty Death – Lt. Vernon Smith

76




April 23, 1959



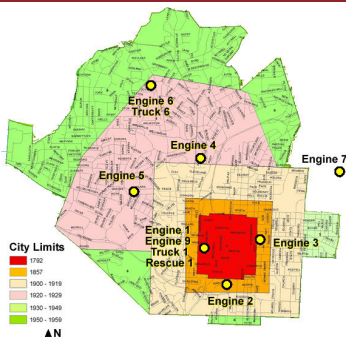
Line of Duty Death

Raleigh Emergency Rescue Squad Volunteer Robert Battle

77



1960



33.67 square miles

93,931 residents

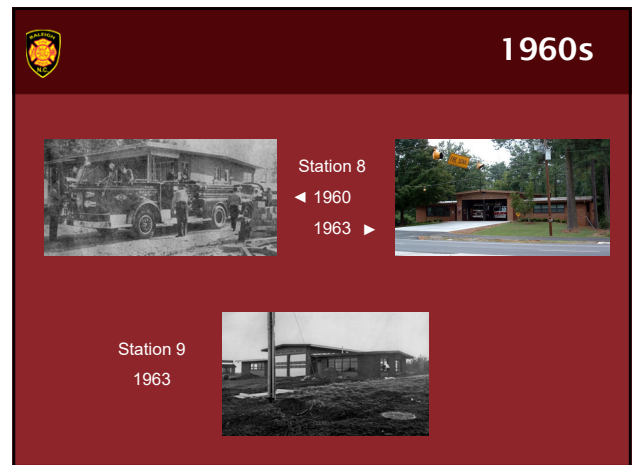
Seven fire stations

123 members

78



79



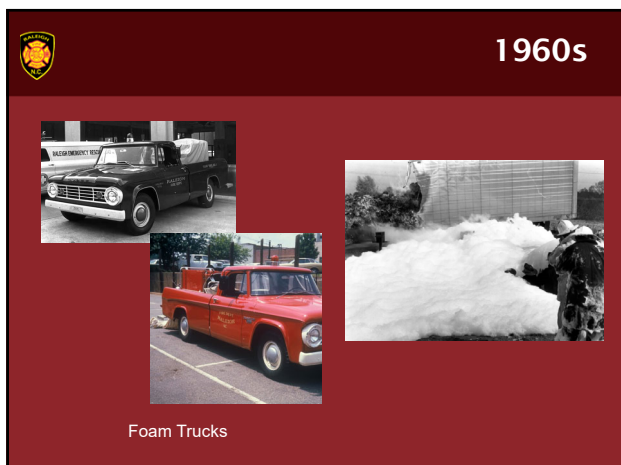
80



81



82



83



84

1963 to 1964

First black firefighters hired in 1963 and 1964:

- ▣ Larry Gene Williams
- ▣ Welton Jones
- ▣ E. Louis Stephens
- ▣ James L. Giles
- ▣ James Greene Jr.
- ▣ Norwood M. Peacock
- ▣ Richmond Davis Jr.

85

April 20, 1965

At Blaze

Fireman Dies on The Job

Raleigh fireman Paul A. "Pallie" Mimms of 215 Georgetown Rd. died early Sunday from what was believed to be a heart attack as he helped fight a fire at 1000 Hillsboro St. Fire Chief Jack Keeter said. Mimms, 41, fainted as he was operating a pumper on a fire truck and was pronounced dead on arrival at Rex Hospital. The fire chief said the ex-terminating physicians suspected a heart attack. Keeter said he expected them to make further studies as to the cause of death. The fire was in the basement of Norton Laboratories Inc. and was discovered about 12:35 a.m. Mimms had driven the pumper truck to the fire scene from Station No. 5 where he was assigned.

Started in Wiring
 Assistant Fire Chief F. M. Bowers said the fire apparently started from wiring in the basement of the Norton firm, which handles veterinary drugs and supplies. The blaze was confined largely to the basement area, fireman said, but burned through the floor of the drug firm and through the floor of the adjoining College Court Billiard Parlor. Firemen had to evacuate the College Court Apartments on the second floor of the building because of the smoke. One woman took refuge from the smoke in a small hatch on the second floor of the apartment. Chief Bowers said, and was taken down by ladder.

Line of Duty Death – Lt. Paul Mimms

86

1970

City Limits

- 1970
- 1960
- 1950 - 1959
- 1940 - 1949
- 1930 - 1939
- 1920 - 1929
- 1910 - 1919
- 1900 - 1909
- 1890 - 1899
- 1880 - 1889
- 1870 - 1879
- 1860 - 1869
- 1850 - 1859
- 1840 - 1849
- 1830 - 1839
- 1820 - 1829
- 1810 - 1819
- 1800 - 1809
- 1790 - 1799
- 1780 - 1789
- 1770 - 1779
- 1760 - 1769
- 1750 - 1759
- 1740 - 1749
- 1730 - 1739
- 1720 - 1729
- 1710 - 1719
- 1700 - 1709
- 1690 - 1699
- 1680 - 1689
- 1670 - 1679
- 1660 - 1669
- 1650 - 1659
- 1640 - 1649
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- 90 - 99
- 80 - 89
- 70 - 79
- 60 - 69
- 50 - 59
- 40 - 49
- 30 - 39
- 20 - 29
- 10 - 19
- 0 - 9

44.93 square miles

122,830 residents

Nine fire stations

196 members

87

1970s

1971 – 1971 – 1974 – 1974 – 1974 – 1979

88

1970s

Mack Fire Apparatus

89

1970s

Chevy service truck
 Mack aerial platform
 Chevy rescue squad
 Mack tractor

90




1970s

- 1972 - City/county emergency communications center.
- 1973 - Fire alarm boxes removed.
- 1973 - Replaced by telephone boxes.




91




1970s

- Third platoon (shift) added (1970)
- First two battalions (districts) created (1971)
- **EMT training starts (1976)**
- Third battalion (district) created (1977)
- First recruit academy* (1978)
- First female firefighters hired (1978)

* Mike, explain that asterisk!


92



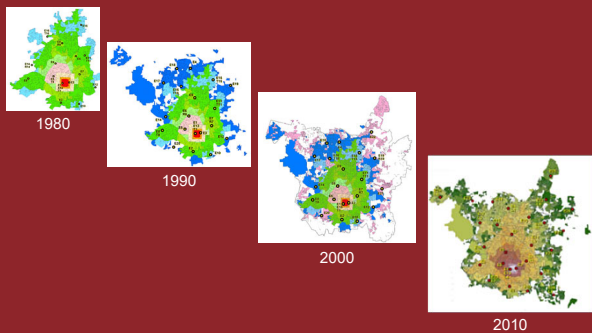
1980 to 2010

Now we go faster...

93



1980 to 2010



94



1980 to 2010

1980s

1990s

2000s



95



1980 to 2010



Mack – Pirsch – EEI – Pierce – Quality – ALF – Pierce

96



97



98



99




100



101



102



1980 to 2010


EMT / Rescue / USAR

1980s First-responder goes city wide.
Haz-mat.

1990s EMT- D program.
Confined space and trench rescue.
High-level rescue.

2000s Swift water rescue.
NC USAR Task Force 8.
NC helicopter rescue team participation.
NC regional haz-mat team to Raleigh.


103



1980 to 2010

<p>1980s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeter Training Center • Fire investigation team. • First mobile air unit. • Explorer post. • Honor guard. <p>1990s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Division Chief • First closed-cab apparatus. • Fire safety house. • Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT). 	<p>2000s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fourth battalion. • Bike team. • Full time investigators. • Thermal imaging cameras. • Eighth ladder company. <p>2010s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fifth battalion. • Squad companies. • Heavy rescue company. • Second air truck. • Ninth ladder company.
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1980s

<p>1980s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeter Training Center • Fire investigation team. • First mobile air unit. • Explorer post. • Honor guard. <p>1990s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Division Chief • First closed-cab apparatus. • Fire safety house. • Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT). 	<p>2000s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fourth battalion. • Bike team. • Full time investigators. • Thermal imaging cameras. • Eighth ladder company. <p>2010s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fifth battalion. • Squad companies. • Heavy rescue company. • Second air truck. • Ninth ladder company.
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105



1981

July 7, 1981 Mangel's Building

- 124 Fayetteville Street Mall
- Built 1890-1900
- Two-story, wood-frame
- 24,940 square-feet
- 100+ firefighters including 21 recruits
- 30 with injuries



106




1982




Keeter Training Center

107



1988



North Raleigh tornado

108



1990s

1980s

- Keeter Training Center
- Fire investigation team.
- First mobile air unit.
- Explorer post.
- Honor guard.

1990s

- First Division Chief
- First closed-cab apparatus.
- Fire safety house.
- Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT).


2000s

- Fourth battalion.
- Bike team.
- Full time investigators.
- Thermal imaging cameras.
- Eighth ladder company.


2010s

- Fifth battalion.
- Squad companies.
- Heavy rescue company.
- Second air truck.
- Ninth ladder company.


109



1992




STOCK PHOTOS
NOT RALEIGH




Fire Protection Engineer

110



1993



EMT Defibrillator Program

111




1996



Hurricane Fran

112



2000s

1980s

- Keeter Training Center
- Fire investigation team.
- First mobile air unit.
- Explorer post.
- Honor guard.

1990s

- First Division Chief
- First closed-cab apparatus.
- Fire safety house.
- Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT).


2000s

- Fourth battalion.
- Bike team.
- Full time investigators.
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- Eighth ladder company.


2010s

- Fifth battalion.
- Squad companies.
- Heavy rescue company.
- Second air truck.
- Ninth ladder company.

113



2003

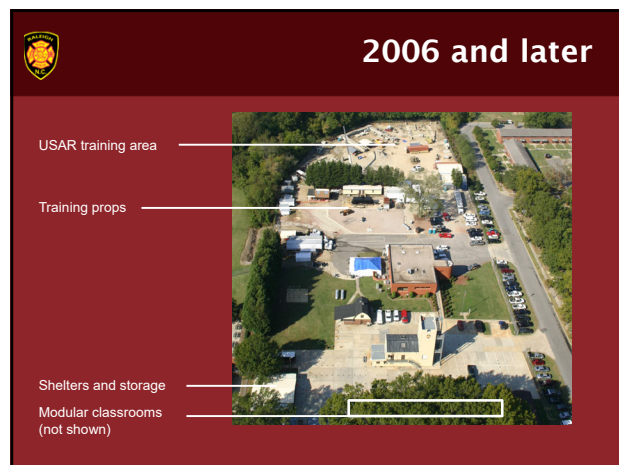


North Carolina Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Task Force 8
Raleigh – Cary – Chapel Hill – Durham

114



115



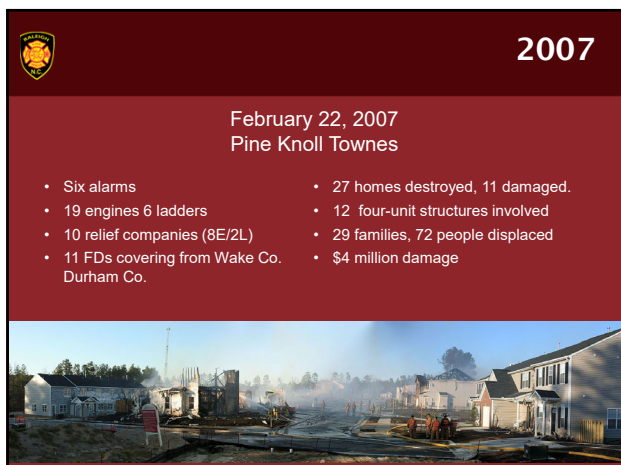
116



117




118



119



120



2010s

1980s

- Keeter Training Center
- Fire investigation team.
- First mobile air unit.
- Explorer post.
- Honor guard.

1990s

- First Division Chief
- First closed-cab apparatus.
- Fire safety house.
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- Fourth battalion.
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2010s

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- Ninth ladder company.

121



2010

Fire Prevention Division / Office of Fire Marshal

FY70	6	FY80	5	FY90	7	FY00	13
FY71	6	FY81	5	FY91	8	FY01	13
FY72	6	FY82	5	FY92	10	FY02	13
FY73	6	FY83	6	FY93	12	FY03	13
FY74	6	FY84	6	FY94	12	FY04	13
FY75	6	FY85	6	FY95	12	FY05	13
FY76	6	FY86	7	FY96	13	FY06	13
FY77	6	FY87	7	FY97	13	FY07	21
FY78	6	FY88	7	FY98	13	FY08	25
FY79	5	FY89	7	FY99	13	FY09	25
						FY10	25

122



2014





Two Squad Companies



Coffin compartments

123



2015



Station 29

Second Tiller

Ninth Ladder



124



2010s



Relocated Station 12



e-Hydraulic rescue tools



Third Tiller



New Heavy Rescue

125



2010s




Metropolitan
2017




Glenwood Towers
2018

126



2016 to 2023



Chief of Department
Herbert D. Griffin
September 8, 2020

127



2016 to 2023



Rebuilt Station 6



Renovated Station 11



Relocated Station 14



Relocated Station 22

128



2016 to 2023



COVID
2019



Dashboards




Civil Unrest
2020




Decon


129



2016 to 2023



Asst. Chief of Training
W. Keith Tessinear
August 29, 2019



Lt. Brent Upton
March 17, 2021

130



2016 to 2023



High-Water Rescue



Apparatus Orders



Short Academy + Long Academy



New Hope Coverage

131



2016 to 2023



First Lateral Academy



Chaplain




Incident Safety Officer



Psychologist

132



Today

- 28 Fire Stations
- 29 Engine Companies
- 2 Squad Companies (rescue pumpers)
- 9 Ladder Companies
- 1 Rescue Companies
- 5 Battalion Chiefs
- 627 Uniformed and Civilian Personnel

133



Today




Office of Fire Chief

Office of Fire Marshal

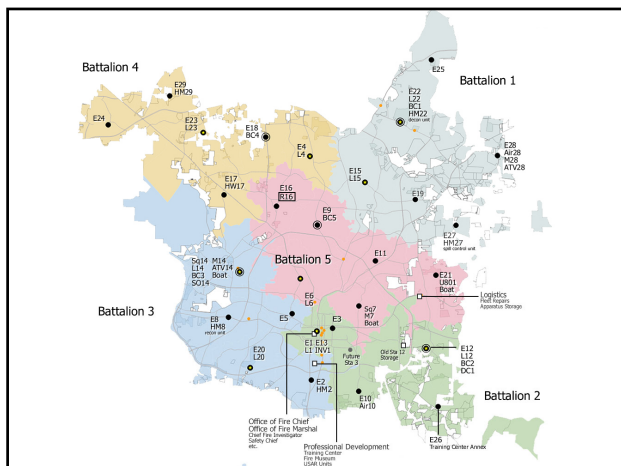
Logistics

Operations


Professional Development




134




135



Questions?

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