



Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter



Volume 8, Issue 3

Summer 2014

New Breathing Apparatus



New self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) was placed in service on July 1 and 2. They were added to each engine, ladder, squad, and rescue, along with chief officers, special units, and reserve units.

Each set included a new Scott Air-Pak X3 harness, AV 3000 faceplate (mask), Epic 3 voice amplifier, and a 5.5 liter air bottle.

Specialized equipment was also placed in service, including larger bottles with a 75-minute capacity, for haz-mat units and rapid intervention team (RIT) packs.

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Haz-Mat to Clayton, Butner



Raleigh Fire Department haz-mat units were special-called to a major leak at a natural gas pipeline facility on Guy Road in eastern Wake County on June 22.

They assisted the Garner Fire Department with assessing the hazard. After the leak was contained, Raleigh firefighters performed air monitoring and used an ATV to check several sites in a radius around the site.



On Thursday, June 26, Raleigh firefighters responded to Granville County as North Carolina Regional Response Team 4. They assisted Butner Public Safety at the John Umstead Hospital laundry building, where a mixture of cleaning compounds caused a chemical reaction in a 55 gallon drum.



After an inmate accidentally added sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide to a drum of hydrogen peroxide, the mixture began overheating. Temperatures approached 250 degrees. The haz-mat team made entry as the reaction was cooling and they secured the drum. ■

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In a first for the Raleigh Fire Department, all SCBA systems were replaced at the same time.

“In the past, we’d replace this equipment in phases,” says Assistant Chief of Services Garry Spain. “This was a problem, because we’d have firefighters operating with different versions of SCBA.”

RIT-PAKs



New rapid intervention team (RIT) equipment was also added. RIT-PAKs replace cloth bags that carried equipment used by crews to locate and rescue a distressed firefighter.

“These are portable air-supply systems designed to be easily carried or dragged on the fireground. They have a protective skid plate on the bottom, and storage pouches for added rescue rope or tools,” says Spain.

“They’re designed to provide extra air for a trapped firefighter, whose own bottle may be low or depleted,” he adds.

Pak-Trackers

The breathing apparatus includes a new technological component, individual radio transmitters part of the Pak-Tracker firefighter locator system.

“Each SCBA harness has a unique identifier based on the company or unit,” says Spain. “The handheld locator can then identify them, and help find them within a single or multi-story structure.”



One handheld receiver will be assigned to each ladder company and each battalion chief.

NFPA Compliant

The new SCBA is compliant with the latest standards in breathing apparatus from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

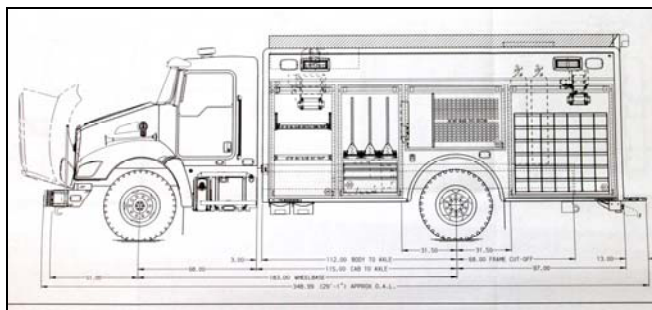
Three main changes in the standard are improved thermal protections in the faceplate, a standard low-air

alarm sound across all brands, and a low-air alarm that’s now triggered at 33% capacity instead of 25% capacity.

“If our firefighters respond as mutual aid outside the city, our low-air alarms will be the same as another department, even if they’re using a different brand,” says Spain.

Training on the new breathing apparatus was conducted for all firefighters in May and June.

New Air Truck, Filling Stations



A new mobile air unit has also been ordered. Built by Pierce on a commercial two-door chassis, the unit is expected in December or January.

It will be similar in size and function to the current Air 1, a 2002 International/SVI. The current unit will become a reserve unit that’s based at the training center.

“With two air units, we can use the old one as a back-up,” says Spain. “It can also travel out of the city for training at remote locations and without impacting our operations.”

Five filling stations have also been ordered, to be installed at each Battalion headquarters. They have a capacity of filling two bottles at once.

Rolling metal racks have also been delivered, to help with storage of spare bottles. ■

By The Numbers

386	Air pack harnesses	20	Pak-Trackers
600	Faceplates	14	RIT-PAKs
600	Voice Amplifiers		
726	45-minute bottles		
89	75-minute bottles		Cost \$2,492,900.

New Helmets, New Gear

In addition to SCBA, new helmets, turnout coats and pants, and other personal protective equipment has been delivered.

New Cairns 1044 Defender helmets have been purchased for the entire department. Five hundred have been procured. The helmets feature two-part eye protection consisting of detachable goggles and a retractable, curved faceshield.



The helmets were chosen by a selection committee that looked at four models. The replacements are needed as the current helmets are reaching their ten-year

life span. Each firefighter will retain their current helmet for use as a back-up.

One hundred and ninety sets of new turnout coats and pants have or are being delivered. They'll be issued to firefighters who are scheduled for gear replacement.

Turnout gear is replaced every five years. Firefighters will retain their prior set as a spare, for use when their primary set is being cleaned or decontaminated. Their second-oldest set will be discarded.

New hoods have also been delivered, which are worn under coats and helmets. These protect exposed areas of skin.

New gloves are also arriving soon. Two sets have been ordered: one style for firefighting, and a thinner style for rescue and extrication.

Three hundred new "bail out bags" have also been delivered. These small bags are carried by each firefighter and contain 40 feet of rope, which is used for emergency escape from a burning structure.

They were issued to firefighters in July with the new SCBA equipment.

Fifteen of sixteen new thermal imaging cameras have also been delivered, along with new ladder belts for each ladder company. ❖

Facilities News

Repairs and renovations are being completed this month at **Station 7** on Glascock Street. Work included asbestos abatement in floor tiles and insulation-wrapped plumbing from a previously removed boiler.

Improvements are being made to the day room and apparatus area. The kitchen will receive new cabinets and countertops, a stainless steel Bosch gas range with KOBE exhaust hood, and a stainless steel General Electric refrigerator.

The entire dayroom will receive new vinyl composite tile flooring, along with new ceiling tiles, window blinds, and electrical switches and receptacles.

In the apparatus bay, the walls, ceiling, and door frames are being patched and painted. The wooden doors will be stripped and re-stained.

Work is expected to start in the fall on the renovation and expansion of **Station 11** on Glenridge Road.

The two-part project will enlarge the apparatus bay, and also perform interior and exterior expansion and renovation. It's part of a multi-year project that will upgrade the city's oldest fire stations.

Design work has been completed on the replacement **Station 12** on Poole Road, with construction anticipated to start in the fall.

Locations for a replacement **Station 14** continue to be assessed in the area of Blue Ridge Road and Edwards Mill Road. ❖

Station 29 Update



Station 29 is under construction at 12117 Leesville Road.

Recent activities have included the installation of site and below-slab utilities, the pouring of concrete slabs for the living quarters, apparatus bay, and apron, and of the erection of steel columns/beams along with concrete block walls and brick coursing.

Other work has included the remaining residual site grading, and installation of curbs and gutters needed for the stone base and asphalt pavement.

Designed by Williard Ferm Architects, Station 29 is the city's first new fire station in seven years. It will house a single engine company and should be occupied in December. ■

Office of Fire Marshal News



On Thursday, June 26, the Raleigh Fire Department participated in a fire and sprinkler safety demonstration at the old Greyhound bus terminal on Jones Street.

Fire service members, health care professionals, and residential sprinkler advocates attended the event, which demonstrated the difference with a fire in a room with and without a sprinkler system.

The event was conducted in partnership with the National Fire Protection Association and the North Carolina Department of Insurance Office of State Fire Marshal

In other news, Deputy Fire Marshal John Royal was hired on June 30. He's a Level III Fire Inspector, and is also certified as a fire and life safety educator.

He comes from the Fayetteville Fire Department, where he worked as an Assistant Fire Marshal for the past four years.

John also has a background in law enforcement, where he was a Deputy Sheriff for eight years in Harnett County. He will be assigned to existing construction inspections. ❖

Hiring For Academy 40

The recruitment process has started Recruit Academy 40, scheduled to start in October. Applications were accepted May 27 to June 27. Over 550 applications were received.

During that period, three optional orientation dates were conducted at the Keeter Training Center. Each day included practice agility and aptitude tests.

On July 14, written aptitude tests will be administered at the Raleigh Convention Center. On July 16, three days of physical agility testing will begin at the Keeter Training Center.

Applicants must pass the written test to continue to the physical test.

The Raleigh Fire Department is hiring for thirty new positions, to help staffed Engine 29 and Ladder 9. The new positions were approved in the FY15 budget.

Recruitment is led by Fire Academy Coordinator Lowell Smith, with support from the entire Training Division.

Academy 40 is scheduled to start on October 27. During the twenty-eight week academy, the firefighter recruits will receive state certifications in EMT, Firefighter I & II, NCRIT (Rapid Intervention Team), and Hazardous Materials Operations.

They'll also receive training on technical rescue, fire-ground procedures, high-rise operations, accountability systems, safety companies, engine and ladder company operations, and firefighter safety and survival. ❖

More Training News

Training on the new SCBA was conducted in May and June. The training was mandatory for all firefighters, prior to using the new breathing apparatus.

In addition to classroom instruction, practical exercises were conducted in a large building, and using the Pak-Tracker technology to locate a hidden firefighter in distress.

Planning is ongoing for the 2014-15 training calendar, including company officer professional development, ladder training, and fireground training at the Wake County Fire Training Center.

Guest speakers have also been scheduled as part of the professional development program for company and chief officers. Chief Rick Lasky will speak on three days to all company officers, and Chief Rich Gasaway will address the Battalion Chiefs.

Upcoming training includes National Incident Management System training for company officers to be taught by Battalion Chiefs in November and December.

Recruit Academy 39 recently completed their instruction on hose streams, water supply, ventilation, forcible entry, and NIMS. The thirty-two recruits will graduate on September 25. They'll serve six months as probationary firefighters, assigned to engine or ladder companies around the city. ■

Operations News

The month of July has again been designated as an annual "stand month" from all training activities. Station personnel will be catching up on their preplans and maps for all commercial occupancies. They'll audit their inventory of hose, and ensure all testing dates are entered in the Firehouse records management system.

Crews will also use the month to catch up on any on-line learning modules, and perform thorough inspections of all station closet and storage spaces, to clean out any clutter that has accumulated over the year.

Planning is also underway to move annual hose testing from the spring to the fall. This is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2015, from September 1 to November 1. This will reduce the workload impact on station personnel performing annual hydrant testing, which is also conducted in the spring of each year.

Each battalion is also now equipped with a hose testing machine. ❖

Promotions & Appointments

July 12

Promoted to Captain: Lt. Curtis L. Sherian.

Promoted to Lieutenant: Senior FF Phillip A. Walters.

July 6

Appointed to Safety Officer: Battalion Chief Franklin C. Hobson.

Appointed to Deputy EMS Coordinator: Firefighter G. Patrick Collins.

Hobson replaces Battalion Chief A. C. Rich, who has been assigned to Battalion 3-B. Collins replaces Senior FF Greg R. Ceisner, who has been assigned to Squad 14-C.

Retirements

Capt. Daniel W. Kelly retired June 1 with 30.5 years of service.



Senior Firefighter Shannon L. Haeck retired July 1 with 12.8 years of service.



Budget Adopted

The Fiscal Year 2015 budget was approved by the City Council on June 9. Major Operating Budget items for the fire department include thirty additional firefighter positions (\$1.68M for nine months, beginning October). They'll staff an additional engine company (Engine 29) and another ladder company (Ladder 9).

Two apparatus purchases were funded: one standard engine and one ladder truck (\$1.54M). The ladder will be a tractor-drawn aerial ladder (or tiller). Raleigh will become the first city in the Carolinas to operate twin tillers. Ladder 4 operates a 2010 Pierce Arrow XT tiller.

Six staff vehicles were also funded for replacement: five for the Office of the Fire Marshal (four compact SUVs and one mid-size sedan) and one for Training (full-size 4x4 SUV).

Three major facility projects were funded from the CIP budget, including a \$6.4M project to replace Fire Station 6 at its present location on Oberlin Road (which includes a \$2.7M bond issue), \$3.1M of a \$7.2M project to relocate Fire Station 14, and \$670,000 of a six-year, \$5.6M program to perform maintenance and repairs of fifteen fire stations built before 1980.

Other capital projects funded include \$205,000 of fire station workplace improvements, \$100,000 of fire station lead paint and asbestos removal, and \$84,000 of fire station roof repairs.

Public Utilities also received funding for a ten-year hydrant replacement project. The project will update the city's hydrants to National thread standards. The cost is for materials only. Public Utilities staff will perform installation of the new hydrants.

Citywide, other budget highlights include merit raises averaging 2.9% per city employee. Pay adjustments will be effective August 9. The budget also restored the city's supplemental retirement program to 3% from 2%. This was reduced in FY12, during the height of the recession. ■

In other news, Lt. Chris Barrows (E5-C) has been doing a great job with the RIT training program he developed for "C" platoon personnel, using the abandoned McBride Building on the Dorothea Dix campus. In June, Capt. K. C. Ray (E1-A) started a different program for "A" platoon using the building, and Capt. Ben Averette (Sq14-B) is created a program for "B" platoon. We'll take a closer look in the next issue.

Retiree Luncheon Photos

On May 7, the Raleigh Professional Fire Fighters Association sponsored the annual retiree “chicken and rice” luncheon at the training center.



Breakfast with Homer

On Monday, May 12, retired Capt. Homer Daniel hosted his annual retiree breakfast at his home in Wake Forest. He served eggs, biscuits, home-cured ham, and home-grown strawberries. The event also helped raise money for cancer, for Relay for Life.



See more photos and watch video interviews with retirees at www.raleighfirenews.org

Photo Gallery



Retired Fire Chief Jonny Sandy and Captain Jerry Ed-dins (both 1999) were among the players at the annual National Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament at Bent Creek Country Club in Fuquay-Varina on June 16. The event was hosted by the Raleigh Fire Department.



Senior Firefighter Jim Schwenk conducts SCBA training to B platoon personnel on June 10. Training on the new equipment was conducted in May and June.



Special Operations Command personnel conducted four days of trench rescue training at the city yard waste center on New Hope Road, June 2 to June 5.



Engine 9 was first-due at a grease fire at a restaurant at 4350 Lassiter at North Hills Avenue on May 24. The fire was quickly extinguished and crews checked for extension.



Senior Firefighter Corey McGee on Engine 8-B attacks a boat fire that was threatening a residential structure on Lundy Drive on April 26.



Fire Investigator Capt. Preston Gaster in action at a house fire on Freeman Street on April 23.

See more photos at www.raleighfirenews.org

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SOUTH ATLANTIC FIRE RESCUE EXPO
RALEIGH CONVENTION CENTER
JULY 23-26

PROMOTIONAL CEREMONY
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JULY 31, 7:00 P.M.

RECRUIT ACADEMY 39 GRADUATION
MEYMANDI CONCERT HALL, DUKE ENERGY CENTER
SEPT 25, 7:00 P.M.

RALEIGH FIRE MUSEUM
105 KEETER CENTER DRIVE
SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, 10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

MONTHLY RETIREE BREAKFAST
PAM'S RESTAURANT, 5111 WESTERN BOULEVARD, 7:30 A.M.
SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

THE RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER IS A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR PERSONNEL, RETIREES, AND CITIZENS. THE EDITOR IS HISTORIAN MIKE LEGEROS. BACK ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE AT www.raleighfirenews.org. TO LEARN ABOUT THE RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT, VISIT www.raleigh-nc.org/fire.

Still Riding with Red Lights



Retired Captain Donald Summers (2010) was spotted on May 31 in his custom golf cart in his neighborhood in southern Wake County. The electric vehicle is equipped with extra bench seats and tailboard, a red light bar, and a manual "air horn." ■