



## Meet the Battalion Chief



The Raleigh Fire Department has four Battalion Chiefs on shift each day, supervising approximately 40 engine, ladder, and rescue company members. Battalion Chief Peter Brock rides Battalion 1 on "C" shift. His office is located at Station 15 on Spring Forest Road.

Their 24-hour shifts start at 7:30 a.m., though most or all arrive around 7:00 a.m. "I start my day doing what I did 25 years ago," says Brock, as he swaps his turnout gear and equipment with the outgoing chief.

He'll spend his first hours at his desk, starting with staffing changes. Though daily rosters are prepared a month in advance, each shift brings unplanned absences. Sickness, requests for help from other divisions, and occasion help for other battalions.

*continued on page 2*

## Three Alarms in North Raleigh

On Tuesday evening, March 24, three alarms were struck at 2806 Armadale Lane, in the new Highland Creek subdivision in northeastern Raleigh.

Engine 28 arrived to find three houses on fire, with two fully involved. Wind-fed flames spread along the ground and damaged four others.

Defensive operations utilized three aerial streams, six deluge guns, and many hand lines. Strategic placements of resources prevented greater damage.



Water pressure problems required booster pumping from two of eight hydrants utilized. A gas leak in the original structure required additional attention.

Apparatus included 12 engines, 3 ladders, and 4 rescues, and about 80 Raleigh and New Hope firefighters.



See more photos from Lee Wilson and Mike Legeros at [www.raleighfirenews.org](http://www.raleighfirenews.org). ■

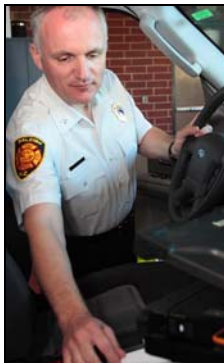
## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Meet the Battalion Chief - Three Alarms in North Raleigh
- 2 Meet the Battalion Chief, continued.
- 3 Asst. Chief Woodall Retires – Promotions – Retirements - Rotation of Command – Training Center
- 4 Ladder Operations Training – Safety Office Created
- 5 Photo Gallery
- 6-7 Fire Department Statistics For 2009
- 8 Calendar – New Engines - Firefighters Awarded - Historical Society Update

*continued from page 1*

A parallel task is reading e-mail. The volume varies based on business days versus weekends and holidays. After his four-day break, Chief Brock can have 60 to 70 messages waiting. He reads in order of priority: higher ranking command staff first, on down to the lowest priority, from people outside RFD.

After spending a couple of hours doing staffing, responding to e-mail, and other office administrative needs, Chief Brock hits the road. "By about 10:00 a.m., I am headed to Station 1." He heads there on business days to pick up or deliver mail.



On most business days, he also heads to Services. He may be delivering or exchanging broken or repaired equipment, picking up uniforms or badges, or transporting SCBA, hose, hand tools, or other items.

His lunch is always on the road, though once a month or so he eats with other Battalion Chiefs and the Division Chief. They have a working lunch to schedule training, work on transfers, and discuss other matters. Each quarter, all BCs attend the weekly command staff meeting.

Station visits are his afternoons. His preferred order of travel is 9, 25, 22, 28, 27, 19, which makes a big circle and is the least amount of driving. He can make the trips in two hours, with no extended station visits.

Realistically, it takes him five hours. He tries to spend some time with each company. "That's how you feel the pulse" of what's happening. While he may not visit every station every day, he does make at least one visit per cycle. Quality over quantity.

One exception is payday, which comes twice a month. He'll visit each station, and as late as it takes. "I've delivered checks at 9 at night."

Though he has an open invitation from all stations in his battalion, Chief Brock usually eats at Station 15. "I'm a bit of a homebody," he admits. Plus, he usually has a couple more hours of work to do.

Each night each Battalion Chief sets up their staffing roster for the next shift day. The task takes about 20 minutes. The remainder of his evening work time is spent on special projects.

All Battalion Chiefs are assigned roles or leadership in special projects that vary in scope and length.

Chief Brock is the chairperson on a small committee

working with the rebanding of the fire department's radios. Each radio must be reprogrammed to shift their frequencies to a new spectrum. His past projects included drafting the Safety Company Policy, and drafting the Highway Response Policy.

Weekends are the best days for projects, he admits. "I can really hunker down and get eight hours of solid work done."

In addition to regular administrative tasks, Chief Brock also attends the same scheduled training as his companies, though he can choose which four-hour block to attend at the training center. He averages two classes a month, but doesn't attend USAR or haz-mat schools. As "an old haz-mat guy," he wishes he could, but there isn't time. All Battalion Chiefs remain in service during training.

He also attends EMT training, though as a personal choice. All Battalion Chiefs hired after 1985 are required to maintain their EMT certification.

Chief Brock describes his supervisor role as "coordination and oversight." He's not a micromanager, and lets his officers manage their companies. "I try to push management down to the lowest level." He relies on his officers to handle things, though he's ready to offer help or assistance as requested. "They may ask for help in a particular situation that they're unfamiliar with," for example.



He tries to keep his pulse on the firefighters, to be aware and anticipate issues as they arrive. Rule violations, he admits, are not a big problem. "I deal more with the dynamics of people living together for 24 hours." That's the biggest challenge of the job. That, "managers coexist with subordinates."

Simply put, his role is "trying to get organizational needs met, maintain discipline, and [foster] harmonious relationships" among personnel.

The Battalion Chief also responds to calls. See Part 2 of this profile next issue. ■

## Asst. Chief Bryant Woodall Retires

On May 1, 2010, Asst. Chief of Services L. Bryant Woodall retires with 33 years of service in the Raleigh Fire Department.

Chief Woodall was hired on April 4, 1977, along with subsequent veterans Dale O. Casey, D. Stanford Dockery, George E. Jones Sr., A. Randy Wall, and V. Tim Wall.



He was promoted to the rank of First Class Firefighter in 1980, Lieutenant (then called Firefighter II, or Engineer) in 1981, and to Captain in 1984.

He was appointed to the rank of Battalion Chief (then called District Chief) in 1988. He was one of the first three Division Chiefs (then called Battalion Chief) appointed in 1991, when the shift supervisor position was created.

Chief Woodall was named Asst. Chief of Operations on October 14, 1995, succeeding Asst. Chief Jonny B. Sandy, who was appointed Fire Chief. Chief Woodall was named Asst. Chief of Services on July 1, 2007. ❖

## Retirements

Capt. Jackie G. Bailey retires May 1 with 30 years of service.



Capt. George M. Davis retires May 1 with 29.1 years of service.



Capt. Donald L. Summers retires May 1, with 30 years of service.



Lt. Joseph L. Massey retired April 10, with 24.8 years of service.



## Appointments

Division Chief J. Danny Poole to Asst. Chief, May 1.  
Battalion Chief Peter J. Brock to Division Chief, May 1.  
Capt. Sammy G. McIntyre to Safety Officer, March 8.  
Lt. Adam S. Perry to Planning Officer, May 3.

## Promotions

Effective May 1:

Captain Gregory R. Bridges to Battalion Chief.

Effective April 13:

Firefighter Steven M. Welch to Lieutenant.

Effective March 13:

Firefighters Andrew B. Coley, David K. English, Charles B. Kneeshaw, C. Timothy Houston, Derek J. Liles, and Marty D. Pleasant to Senior Firefighter.

## Rotation of Command

Effective May 1, the following transfer of command will be executed.

Asst. Chief Larry Stanford from Training to Operations.

Asst. Chief Phillip Woodlief from Operations to Services.

Asst. Chief Danny Poole from Operations to Training.

## Training Center Updates



Two metal shelters were recently added at the Keeter Training Center. One is located on the upper drill pad and protects a pair of reserve pumpers. The second shelter was added on the USAR grounds. It will cover shoring materials preloaded on pallets for rapid deployment to local or regional incidents. For transporting the shoring, North Carolina Task Force 8 recently received a flatbed trailer. It will also be available for obtaining large training materials and props.

## Ladder Operations Training



Training started in March on new operational procedures for ladder and rescue companies, as a project to develop operational continuity between Raleigh's eight ladder and three rescue companies.

Chaired by Capt. Greg Wall and Capt. Stephen Page, the project committee began meeting in May 2009. They researched best practices and lessons learned by similar departments. They compared our operations to others, and decided to revamp current procedures to improve ladder and rescue company effectiveness.

The new procedures define tactics and objectives for fireground operations at single family, multi-family, commercial, and strip mall fires. The new procedures also add tool assignments and riding positions.

Five riding positions are defined—Driver, Officer, Irons, Outside Vent, and Inside Hook—and companies are divided into an Inside Team and Outside Team, with assumed tasks based on arrival order of rescue and ladder companies.



Ladder companies also practiced the new procedures during high-rise drills in March and April, pictured above. See more photos at [www.raleighfirenews.org](http://www.raleighfirenews.org).

Training is being conducted through November, and will be evaluated for effectiveness during December and January, and will resume with any needed improvements in February or March 2011.

A parallel project is also presently under way to create new operational procedures for engine companies. ❖

## Safety Office Created

Effective March 8, 2010, a new safety office was created, along with the department's first dedicated Safety Officer. Capt. Sammy McIntyre was appointed to the position. He's located in the Dillon Building with Fire Administration and Fire Prevention.

The sole function of the office is to concentrate on safety and safe operations in all aspects of the fire department.

The role of Safety Officer includes analyzing cause and effect of all injuries and accidents, analyzing all departmental procedures, and making recommendations to command staff based on best practices or actions to reduce, mitigate, or eliminate such accidents and injuries.



A Safety Committee was also formed with a Captain and Lieutenant from each shift: Capt. A.C. Rich, and Lt. Jayson Ramsey (A); Capt. David Barefoot, and Lt. Dan Gardner (B); Capt. Allen Wilson, and Lt. Andy Meier (C).

Initial projects for the office and committee include a review of all relevant SOPs and safety procedures, to ensure that they are up-to-date, relevant, and employee friendly. Another project will integrate accident and injury reporting into the Firehouse software system, to improve tracking and reporting.

Capt. McIntyre is also on call to respond to major fires and other significant incidents. He'll function as scene safety officer, and assist with other duties as needed. His unit number is Safety 1. ■

VIEW THIS NEWSLETTER AND BACK ISSUES

AT: [WWW.RALEIGHFIRENEWS.ORG](http://WWW.RALEIGHFIRENEWS.ORG)

## Photo Gallery



The Raleigh Professional Firefighters Association sponsored a retiree luncheon at Station 26 on Monday, April 12. A total of 72 retirees attended.



Engine 12 was first-arriving at 611 Peyton Street on Sunday, March 28. Two alarms were struck.



Capt. Damon Chapel (left) performs with his band Nash Vegas at the Longbranch on Friday, March 26. The event raised \$6,000 for the Flip Kissinger Family Fund.

See more photos from these and other events at [www.raleighfirenews.org](http://www.raleighfirenews.org).



Promotional ceremony at City Council Chambers on Friday, February 26.



Task Force 8 members training at Falls Lake in January.



Raleigh Fire Department Explorer Post #108 attended Winterfest 2010 in February, at the nation's largest Explorer and Venturer convention. They joined over 3,000 participants from 12 states in Gatlinburg, TN.

## Fire Operations

Incidents 35,266  
Runs ▼ 50,986

## Engine Companies

Eng 1 2,287  
Eng 2 1,394  
Eng 3 2,682  
Eng 4 1,133  
Eng 5 1,306  
Eng 6 1,238  
Eng 7 1,771  
Eng 8 1,677  
Eng 9 1,482  
Eng 10 1,391  
Eng 11 1,962  
Eng 12 2,508  
Eng 13 1,198  
Eng 14 1,347  
Eng 15 1,835  
Eng 16 1,594  
Eng 17 1,124  
Eng 18 999  
Eng 19 1,723  
Eng 20 1,297  
Eng 21 1,195  
Eng 22 1,232  
Eng 23 856  
Eng 24 814  
Eng 25 545  
Eng 26 945  
Eng 27 550  
Eng 28 477

## Ladder Companies

L1 (4) 672  
L2 (11) 1,550  
L3 (16, 17) 831  
L4 (1) 1,685  
L5 (22) 711  
L6 (24) 363  
L7 (20) 769  
L8 (26) 451

# Raleigh Fire Department Statistics



## Overview

Fire Chief	John T. McGrath	Stations	27
Budget	\$50,481,355	Engines	28
Personnel	568	Ladders	8
City Population	388,926	Rescues	3
City Size (sq. miles)	142.902	Battalion Chiefs	4

## EMS

In 2009, almost half (49%) of cardiac arrest patients in Raleigh were resuscitated and discharged from the hospital. This ranks Raleigh as one of the top places for survival. Also, 75% of cardiac arrest patients had a return of spontaneous circulation. For trauma patients (classified as severe injury or mechanism of injury), 100% were transported in under 10 minutes. This is directly related to having backboards on all apparatus, and using them for trauma patients.

## Fire Education

A total of 189 fire prevention activities were documented in 2009, with contacts to 19,435 people of all ages. This ranks the Raleigh Fire Department seventh in the state for total people reached. The total does not reflect undocumented contacts such as media interviews and Fire Watch viewings.

## Information Technology

Staff answered 2,071 support questions in 2009 via phone and electronic mail, including 777 questions about the Firehouse records management system, 256 questions concerning e-mail, and 263 general questions.

## Training

A total of 576 classes and 2865.5 hours of instruction were conducted at the Keeter Training Center last year. Courses included Capital Leadership, Chemistry of Haz-Mat, EMT Continuing Education, Fire Officer I & II, Live Burn Training, Technical Search & Rescue, and USAR Structural Collapse School.



## Incident Types

False alarms and false calls	4,449	EMS and rescue	21,897
Fire	1,185	Service calls	2,455
Good intent	3,957	Special	68
Hazard conditions	1,186		
Overpressure, ruptures, explosion	50	<b>Total</b>	<b>35,266</b>

# January 1 – December 31, 2009

## Fire Inspections

New construction inspections:	5,248
New construction plans reviews:	2,275
Existing building surveys, company-level:	7,907
Existing building inspections and related:	9,773 (below)



### Existing Building Inspection Activity

Residential inspections	3,993	New / up-fit inspection requests	141
Assembly inspections	1,260	Storage facility inspections	105
Mercantile inspections	1,019	Request for inspection	95
Re-inspections	763	Institutional inspections	56
Code consultations	433	Factory / industrial inspections	56
Business inspections	385	High-rise inspections	46
Permit site inspections	282	Net-force taskforce inspections	39
Educational inspections	228	Special events	20
Other inspections and services	223	Hazardous facility inspections	17
Referral / complaints	214	Engine company correction orders	10
State and city regulated inspections	188		

**Total 9,773**

## Fire Investigation

The Fire Investigation Unit responded to 204 fires last year. They were classified as accidental (135), incendiary (50), natural (3), and undetermined (16). The causes:

Cooking	31	15%	Chimney fire	3	1%
Smoking	26	13%	Grill	3	1%
Ignitable liquids	25	12%	Heater	3	1%
Unknown	21	10%	Trash can	2	1%
Electrical	17	8%	Vagrants	2	1%
Mechanical failure	17	8%	Grass	1	0%
Available combustibles	16	8%	Incense	1	0%
Dryer	9	4%	Roofing sealer / open flame	1	0%
Improper storage	8	4%	Sweating pipes	1	0%
Juvenile	6	3%	Vehicle recall	1	0%
Candle	5	2%	Welding	1	0%
Lightning	4	2%			
<b>Total</b>			<b>20 100%</b>		

## Rescue Units

R1 (19)	566
R2 (7)	824
R3 (14)	675

## Special Units

Air 1 (5)	121
HM1 (2)	52
HM2 (15)	58

## Command Staff

B1	477
B2	470
B3	321
B4	239
C10 (5)	147

## Busiest Engines

E3	2,682
E12	2,508
E1	2,287
E11	1,962
E15	1,835
E7	1,771
E19	1,723
E8	1,677
E16	1,594
E9	1,482
E2	1,394
E10	1,391
E14	1,347
E5	1,306
E20	1,297
E6	1,238
E22	1,232
E13	1,198
E21	1,195
E4	1,133
E17	1,124
E18	999
E26	945
E23	856
E24	814
E27	550
E25	545
E28	477

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MONTHLY RETIREE BREAKFAST

PAM'S RESTAURANT, 5111 WESTERN BOULEVARD

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 7:30 A.M.

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 7:30 A.M.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 7:30 A.M.

### FIFTH ANNUAL NC FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL

NASH SQUARE, 227 W. MARTIN STREET

SATURDAY, MAY 1,

10:00 A.M. (PARADE), 1:00 P.M. (SERVICE)

### RETIREE DAY

KEETER TRAINING CENTER, 105 KEETER CENTER DRIVE

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 11:00 A.M.

### FOURTH ANNUAL NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

GOLF TOURNAMENT

EAGLE RIDGE GOLF CLUB, RALEIGH, NC

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

## New Engines Delivered



Two new pumpers were delivered on March 26; a pair of 2010 Pierce Arrow XT engines, 1500 GPM, 500 gallons, with Waterous pumps and Husky foam systems. They join 29 other active and reserve apparatus built by Pierce. They'll be assigned to Engine 11 and Engine 13, with Engine 4 and Engine 28 receiving the reassigned apparatus, respectively. ❖

## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

THE RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER IS A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR PERSONNEL, RETIREES, AND CITIZENS. THE EDITOR IS RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN MIKE LEGEROS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT [rfdnews@legeros.com](mailto:rfdnews@legeros.com). MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT, VISIT THE WEB SITE [www.raleigh-nc.org/fire](http://www.raleigh-nc.org/fire). ❖

## Firefighters Receive Award



The Firemark Award for Heroism was presented by Liberty Mutual Insurance at a ceremony at Station 16 on March 27. Senior Firefighter Dan Fox, Capt. Gary Amato, Senior Firefighter John Mitchell, and Lt. Donny Wall (shown left to right) were recognized for their May 31, 2008 efforts.

As members of Engine 16, they rescued an elderly resident from a townhome on Brown Bark Place. She was discovered during the primary search, and removed moments before the roof collapsed. The 55 year-old female was resuscitated at the scene and made a full recovery. She also attended the event.

The ceremony included a lunch that was also attended by the other companies that worked the fire, and who rescued a second resident, an 89 year-old female. Says Capt. Amato, "It was a great team effort by everyone involved, and they all share in the credit." See more photos at [www.raleighfirenews.org](http://www.raleighfirenews.org). ■

## Historical Society Update

The Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society was incorporated as a non-profit organization in March. Applying for tax-exempt status is the next step.

They have also received a modular classroom at the training center for a permanent display of historical items. They're preparing the trailer for Retiree Day on May 8.

To receive e-mail updates and other historical information, subscribe to the Yahoo group **raleighfirehistory**:

1. Send a blank message to [raleighfirehistory-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:raleighfirehistory-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)
2. Reply to the confirmation message that you receive, after step #1.