



# Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter



Volume 5, Issue 2

Spring 2011

## New Water Supply Procedure



The Raleigh Fire Department is changing the way it brings water to structure fires.

Currently, the first-arriving engine company relies on the 500 gallons of water it carries to initially attack the fire. Then second-arriving engine lays hose from the nearest fire hydrant, and provides the first engine with a now-unlimited water supply.

Beginning May 1, the first-arriving engine company will "catch" its own supply line from the hydrant.

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## Four Alarms for Brush Fire

Wind-fed flames burned 25 acres of grass and brush at the Wakefield Plantation Golf Course on Saturday, Feb. 19. Reported as a grass fire at Falls of Neuse Road near Garden Hill Drive, the fast-moving flames threatened single- and multi-family structures on three sides.



Engine 25 was first on scene, along with a Falls Fire Department pumper. They quickly requested additional resources, including brush trucks, more engines, and full structure fire assignments from Raleigh. Several citizens assisted firefighters, and the golf course sprinklers were also utilized.



The afternoon fire was controlled within 90 minutes. Units responded from Raleigh, Falls, Wake Forest, Stony Hill, Bay Leaf, and Durham Highway fire departments. See more photos from Mike Legeros at [www.raleighfirenews.org](http://www.raleighfirenews.org). ■

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"This new procedure places the safety of our firefighters first," says Capt. Bill Bristle, Chair of the Engine Company Committee that developed the procedure.

"The engine company has an established water supply before their personnel enter a burning building," notes Bristle. "There's less danger of running out of water."



Part of the new procedure is a new piece of equipment called a hydrant assist valve. It weighs 37 pounds and has two inlets and two outlets for five-inch hose.

"The valve is connected to the hydrant," says Bristle, "and the supply line is

connected to the valve. The second-arriving engine then parks at the hydrant and connects to the valve."

Capt. A.C. Rich, one of the instructors on the new procedure, explains the benefit of the valve: "The second engine boosts the pressure on the supply line, which overcomes the friction loss and increases the efficiency of the water supply."



"It effectively places the pump beside the hydrant," notes Rich.

A secondary benefit of the procedure is that one less engine is parked in front of the structure, as well as better placement of the supply line.

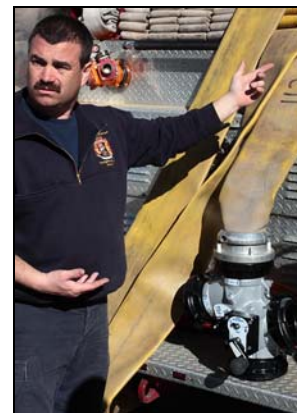
"That five-inch diameter hose can be a barrier to incoming units, such as the ladder truck, which is preferably placed as close to the structure as possible."

The new procedure encourages the first-arriving Engine Company to lay the supply line, but allows flexibility to

the Company Officers to provide the best opportunity for strategic placement along the roadway, so other units can get close to the scene.

Training on the new procedure and the new valves started in February at the Keeter Training Center.

Instructors Bristle, Capt. A.C. Rich, Lt. Jeff Harrison, Lt. Lonnie Glover, and Senior Firefighter Jim Schwenk have conducted both classroom and practice instruction.



The new valves will be mounted on the tailboards of all front-line engines. Ladder trucks will also receive the valves, likely stored in compartments for use when a ladder company lays its own supply line, such as at major working fires. ❖

*Thanks to Capt. Bill Bristle and Capt. A.C. Rich for their assistance on this article.*

## Development Services

The Fire Prevention Division is participating in a new Development Services initiative, created by the city as an independent and overarching management structure to oversee building development processes from a more holistic position.

A new division has also been created to coordinate the development review process across department lines. Fire is one of five departments involved in review and approval of building projects, along with Inspections, Planning, Public Utilities, and Public Works.

"With the departments working closer together, says Assistant Fire Marshal and New Construction Supervisor Steve Berry, "we have discovered that we can answer common questions. In some cases we have also been able to save the city and the owner money."

The fire department can help with street widths, minimum street/road loads, hydrant spacing, and hydrant location, notes Berry. And through meetings with building owners, contractors, and/or architects, Development Services teams can examine the pros and cons of proposed locations and before too much money is spent on a project that might otherwise have its location rejected. ■

## Burn Center Activities

On Friday, March 18, the Raleigh Fire Department delivered a meal to the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center in Chapel Hill. Pizza, lasagna, salad, drinks, and home-made dessert were provided for several patients, their families, and the staff.

The event included a contest, with twelve different kinds of cookies or desserts baked by Raleigh firefighters at Stations 1A, 8C, 11A, 11B, 20A, 26C, and the Fire Prevention Division, along with cookies made by Knightdale, Morrisville, Raleigh-Durham International Airport, and Western Wake fire departments.

The winner was a chocolate cookie with mint cream filling made by the airport firefighters. They received a plaque that will travel with them until the next visit. Station 11 "A" shift took second place with their fire-themed cookies, and Fire Prevention placed third with a brickle bar.

The meal was funded by the Wake County Chapter of the North Carolina Firefighters' Burned Children Fund. Thanks to everyone who participated. ❖

## Filling the Boot for MDA

Raleigh firefighters are raising money this spring for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, as part of the national Fill the Boot campaign from the International Association of Fire Fighters. The dates that firefighters will be collecting donations



in public locations are:

Saturday, April 9 – C shift

Saturday, April 23 – A shift

Saturday, May 21 – B shift

## Standing Down

Recent spikes and fluctuations in the world fuel supply have raised the cost of fuel. These increased costs have impacted the budget of the Raleigh Fire Department. In February, Fire Chief John McGrath called an emergency session with command staff to brainstorm on current and future budgetary concerns, especially relating to fuel. After long and considered discussion, the decision was made to initiate a "stand down" for the month of March.

"This allowed companies to respond to emergencies," notes Asst. Chief of Operations Frank Warner, "but suspended all non-response activities. This included travel to the training center, pre-planning, and grocery store trips."

The "stand down" concluded April 1 at 0800 hours. Data from the month of March will be reviewed and analyzed.

"In addition to allowing a measurement of our fuel usage," notes Warner, "the 'stand down' provided other benefits."

It allowed personnel to take a breather from the many programs currently in effect, and it added to the time available for in-house company-level training.

"We were also able to display our dedication to the city leadership," says Warner, "and help the city and the citizens through these difficult economic times."

Chief Warner thanks everyone for their help, both in March and in energy- and cost-saving efforts in earlier months. ■

## Retirements

Capt. Shelton Price retires April 1 with 29.1 years of service.



Capt. W. Kent Jackson retires April 1 with 28.4 years of service.



Lt. Mark A. Randall retires April 1 with 28.4 years of service.



## Promotions

### April 9

Lieutenant Brian W. Taylor to Captain

Lieutenant Todd D. Aspden to Captain

Senior Firefighter David G. Bagwell to Lieutenant

Senior Firefighter Stephen J. Corker to Lieutenant

Senior Firefighter Darrell L. Adams to Lieutenant

## Fire Operations

Incidents 36,408  
Runs ▼ 51,561

## Engine Companies

Eng 1 2,171  
Eng 2 1,487  
Eng 3 2,438  
Eng 4 1,121  
Eng 5 1,281  
Eng 6 1,314  
Eng 7 1,897  
Eng 8 1,664  
Eng 9 1,566  
Eng 10 1,443  
Eng 11 2,081  
Eng 12 2,527  
Eng 13 1,216  
Eng 14 1,506  
Eng 15 1,943  
Eng 16 1,751  
Eng 17 1,213  
Eng 18 1,100  
Eng 19 1,865  
Eng 20 1,317  
Eng 21 1,210  
Eng 22 1,354  
Eng 23 961  
Eng 24 848  
Eng 25 624  
Eng 26 1,003  
Eng 27 628  
Eng 28 515

## Ladder Companies

L1 (Sta 4) 1,487  
L2 (Sta 11) 2,438  
L3 (Sta 17) 1,121  
L4 (Sta 1) 1,281  
L5 (Sta 22) 1,314  
L6 (Sta 24) 1,897  
L7 (Sta 20) 1,664  
L8 (Sta 26) 1,566

# Raleigh Fire Department Statistics



## Overview

Fire Chief	John T. McGrath	Stations	27
Budget	\$50,115,068	Engines	28
Personnel	568	Ladders	8
City Population	403,892	Rescues	3
City Size (sq. miles)	143.865	Battalions	4

## Training

A total of 682 classes and 3,397 hours of instruction were conducted at the Keeter Training Center last year. Courses ranged from EMT continuing education to big-box building searches to USAR helicopter operations.

## Fire Education

A total of 346 fire prevention activities were documented in 2010, with contacts to 31,155 people of all ages. The department participated in both large scale events such as Fire Prevention Week activities and Raleigh Wide Open, in addition to conducting activities on a smaller scale such as classroom visits and smoke alarm installations. Ten episodes of FireWatch were also produced.

## Information Technology

Staff fielded 2,450 support questions in 2010, including 176 questions after 5:00 p.m., 337 questions about the Firehouse records management system, 109 questions concerning e-mail, and 103 general questions. The IT department supports all fire department divisions as well as NC USAR Task Force 8. This includes desktop and laptop computers, mobile data computers, and servers.

## Incident Types

The Raleigh Fire Department complies with the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) version 5.0, utilizing Firehouse RMS Enterprise Edition with FHWeb. Below are totals in nine major categories from NFIRS.

False alarms, false calls	4,455	Overpressure, ruptures, explosion	57
Fire	1,319	Service call (Child locked in vehicle, water removal, assist police, etc.)	2,765
Good intent (Smoke investigation, wrong location, controlled burn, etc.)	3,564	Severe weather or natural disaster	27
EMS and rescue	22,876	Hazard conditions, no fire (Spills, leaks, power lines, etc.)	42
<b>Total</b>		<b>36,408</b>	

# January 1 – December 31, 2010

## Fire Inspections

New construction inspections:	4,091
New construction plans reviews:	2,834
Existing building surveys, company-level:	4,533
Existing building inspections and related:	10,141 (below)



## Existing Building Inspection Activity

Residential inspections	3,915	New/Up-fit inspection	16
Assembly inspections	1,443	Storage facility inspections	241
Mercantile inspections	652	Request for inspection	42
Re-Inspections	1,148	Institutional inspections	57
Code consultations	381	Factory/Industrial inspections	27
Business inspections	343	High-rise inspections	35
Permit site inspections	267	Net-Force taskforce inspections	50
Educational inspections	312	Special events	32
Other inspections & services	537	Hazardous facility inspections	25
Referral / complaints	192	Engine company correction orders	16
City regulated	43	Fireworks inspections	104
Alcohol Beverage Commission Inspections	167	Operations Technical Assist	96
<b>Total</b>		<b>10,141</b>	

## Fire Investigation

The Fire Investigation Unit responded to 238 fires last year, which were classified as accidental (164 / 69%), incendiary (52 / 22%), natural (8 / 3%), and undetermined (15 / 6%). The causes:

Available combustibles	52	22%	Improper Discarded Material	1	0%
Candle	5	2%	Improper storage	9	4%
Cooking	40	17%	Lightning	6	3%
Discarded rags	1	0%	Mechanical failure	29	12%
Dryer	3	1%	Over current	1	0%
Due to circumstances	9	4%	Roofing sealer/open flame	1	0%
Electric blanket	1	0%	Smoking	24	10%
Electrical	23	10%	Spontaneous combustion	1	0%
Fireworks	2	1%	Sweating pipes	1	0%
Furnace	1	0%	Unknown	15	6%
Heater	3	1%	Welding	1	0%
Ignitable liquids	9	4%			
<b>Total</b>			<b>238 100%</b>		

## Rescue Units

R1 (Sta 19)	685
R2 (Sta 7)	826
R3 (Sta 14)	680

## Special Units

Air 1 (Sta 8)	155
HM1 (Sta 2)	68
HM2 (Sta 15)	65

## Command Staff

B1 (Sta 15)	537
B2 (Sta 12)	506
B3 (Sta 8)	368
B4 (Sta 23)	275
C10 (Sta 8)	181

## Busiest Engines

E12	2,527
E3	2,438
E1	2,171
E11	2,081
E15	1,943
E7	1,897
E19	1,865
E16	1,751
E8	1,664
E9	1,566
E14	1,506
E2	1,487
E10	1,443
E22	1,354
E20	1,317
E6	1,314
E5	1,281
E13	1,216
E17	1,213
E21	1,210
E4	1,121
E18	1,100
E26	1,003
E23	961
E24	848
E27	628

## Photo Gallery



Two alarms were struck at 3530 Blue Ridge Road, when this outbuilding at a nursing home burned on April 2.



Crews apply foam after the pumps and two vehicles caught fire at a service station at the intersection of St. Mary's and Peace streets on March 4.



Retired Lt. Welton Jones, Lt. Randy Harrington, and Firefighter First Class Glenn Todd taped a FireWatch segment at Station 1 on February 17. They were interviewed by Fire Educator Ronald Campbell for Black History Month.



Firefighters Tim Godwin (left) and Jesse Richardson remotely monitor air quality in Warrenton on February 2. Raleigh's regional hazardous materials response team assisted at a major fire at a farm supply store.



Members of Raleigh Fire Department Explorer #108 practiced firefighter skills at the Keeter Training Center on Saturday, January 15.



The Raleigh Professional Firefighters Association sponsored a retiree luncheon at Station 26 on Thursday, April 7. Over 90 retirees attended. See photos from Mike Legeros and Lee Wilson at <http://www.raleighfirenews.org>.

## FIREWATCH TOURS MUSEUM



As the Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society prepares their new museum for opening, Fire Educator and Deputy Fire Marshal Ronald Campbell took viewers on a tour for the April episode of FireWatch.



FireWatch airs on the RTN-11 cable television channel on Monday (12:30 p.m.) Friday (11:00 a.m.), Saturday (11:30 a.m., 6:30 p.m.) and Sunday (2:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.) Episodes can also be viewed on the Raleigh web portal at [www.raleighnc.gov/safety](http://www.raleighnc.gov/safety).



The new episode, airing later this month, includes a tour of antique apparatus at Station 28 with Fire Protection Engineer Tim Henshaw. Watch the episode, and see more photos and footage at [www.raleighfirenews.org](http://www.raleighfirenews.org). ❖

## WE WANT YOUR OLD STUFF!

Do you have photographs, paper records, log books, hand equipment, or other items collecting dust or sitting in storage? Please consider donating to the Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society. Contact Battalion Chief Alan Walters at Station 23, at 919-420-2395. His e-mail address is [luther.walters@raleighnc.gov](mailto:luther.walters@raleighnc.gov).



Thanks to retired Lt. Robert Upchurch, who donated these and other items.

## MORE FAMILY INFORMATION

In addition to the three generations of firefighters listed in the last issue—Taylor, Ray, and Hodges—a fourth family has also served the Raleigh Fire Department for three generations:

Mechanic James C. Ellis (1950-1976)  
 Capt. J. Wayne Ellis (1973-2005)  
 Firefighter Joshua J. Ellis (2000-present)

What are the most frequent family names among current and former fire department members? From best available records dating to 1912, they include:

Johnson	27	Pearce	12
Smith	27	Edwards	10
Jones	25	Moore	10
Perry	21	Wall	10
Williams	15	Wilson	10

Other frequent family names: Taylor (9), Brown (8), Hodge (8), Matthews (8), Poole (8), Ray (8), Warren (8), Watkins (8), Carroll (7), Hicks (7), Horton (7), Lloyd (7), Marshall (7), Parker (7), Stephenson (7), Upchurch (7), and White (7). ■

Raleigh Fire Department  
310 West Martin Street, Suite 200  
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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MONTHLY RETIREE BREAKFAST

PAM'S RESTAURANT, 5111 WESTERN BOULEVARD

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

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 7:30 A.M.

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

### SIXTH ANNUAL NC FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL

NASH SQUARE, 227 W. MARTIN STREET

SATURDAY, MAY 7

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

### FIFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

GOLF TOURNAMENT

EAGLE RIDGE GOLF CLUB, RALEIGH, NC

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

## Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Retired Capt. C. A. Lloyd, who coordinates the annual retiree Christmas Party, advises that this year's event will be held during daylight hours. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, Dec. 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Same location, at the Wake County Shrine Club.

## Firefighter of the Year Award

Capt. Bill Bristle has been selected as Firefighter of the Year by the American Legion, Raleigh Post 1. The award was presented at a ceremony on March 10 at the American Legion building at 3600 Lee Road, Raleigh.



Assigned to Engine 8-C, Capt. Bristle has been a member of the department for 21 years. In addition to his role as engine company officer, his department activities include teaching, serving as a committee member, and acting as a liaison between other committees. Capt. Bristle joined the Raleigh Fire Department in 1990, and was promoted to Captain in 1999. He is also a member of the hazardous materials team. ❖

## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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