



# Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter



Volume 6, Issue 4

Fall 2012

## Special Operations Changes



Since October 2011, a Special Operations Command Task Force has been evaluating the technical rescue, hazardous materials, and urban search and rescue (USAR) capabilities of the Raleigh Fire Department.

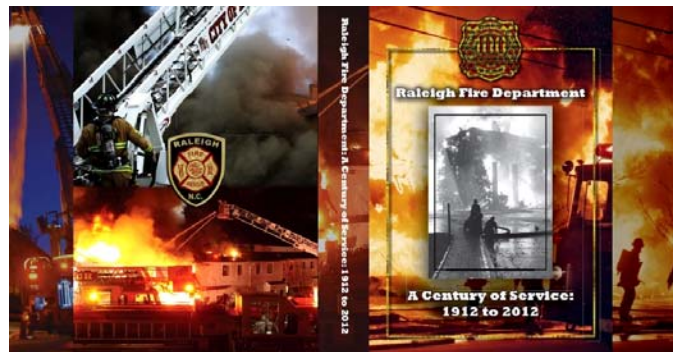
Chaired initially by Asst. Chief Rusty Styons and currently by Asst. Chief Danny Poole, the committee examined numerous aspects of the department's special services including their scope and purpose, the number of companies tasked with specialties, and their ability to respond to emergencies inside the city.

Task force members were drawn from the Administration, Operations, and Training divisions, and were comprised of ranks from Senior Firefighter to Assistant

*Continued on page 2*

## History Book Production in Full Swing

The Raleigh Fire Department Centennial History book is currently in production. It's available exclusively for pre-ordering and won't be sold in bookstores. The 260-page hardcover is \$60.00 until December 1. The price rises to \$70.00 on December 2. The deadline for all orders is January 15, 2013. Place your order at [www.rfd100.com](http://www.rfd100.com).



A committee has been working for months on various components, including portraits of all active and retired personnel. "The book will include portraits of every retiree since the start of the city retirement system in 1949," notes Historian Mike Legeros. "We've compiled over 350 portraits, and with many unearthed through detective work."

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In September, content was completed for the specialty disciplines (EMT, rescue, haz-mat, etc.) and special groups (Explorers, Fireman's Club, Local 548, etc.). Also that month, stations submitted per-platoon crew photos. October's work will include finishing station crew and facility photos. Follow the project at [www.facebook.com/rfd100book](http://www.facebook.com/rfd100book). ■

Chief.

The group's first recommendation was implemented in March 2012, with a realignment of the haz-mat group.



One ladder company was removed from the group, and one haz-mat engine was relocated to a slower first-due territory.

This allowed the company members more time to focus on their specialty, and more time to maintain equipment. Despite the changes, the same number of haz-mat technicians (20) remained in the group.

The task force's second recommendation, or series of recommendations, is planned for implementation in January 2013:

**Technical Rescue Group** – The creation of a group of personnel with special training and ready to respond to technical rescue incidents. They'll staff four companies: a new five-person heavy rescue (Rescue 1 at Station 21), two engines designated as squads (Squad 14, Squad 15), and a ladder company (Ladder 3 at Station 17).

**USAR Task Force** – Personnel will continue to participate as members of NC USAR Task Force 8.



However, specific companies will no longer be designated USAR companies, and participation on the task force will no longer be company-dependent.

**Special Operations Command** – All specialty functions performed by the Operations Division—haz-mat, technical rescue, and USAR-- will be managed by a newly created Special Operations Command (SOC).

**Fifth Battalion** - Through the reclassification of rescue company positions, one position per platoon remained

and has been reclassified as a Battalion Chief. This will add a fifth Battalion Chief to the city, which will be located at Station 9.

**Rescue and Haz-Mat Battalion Chiefs** – Effective in January, two Battalion Chiefs will be designated the Rescue Battalion Chief and the Haz-Mat Battalion Chief. They will be dispatched to all incident types involving their specialty within the city limits.

The task force is working with all fire department divisions to implement the planned changes for January.

**New Rescue Company, New Squad Companies**

The heavy rescue company will utilize one of the two 2007 Pierce rescue units. The second will become a reserve unit. Both will be modified with additional seating for the five-person company. Named Rescue 1, it will be housed at Station 21.



Rescue 1 will respond to all structure fires, along with vehicle entrapments, trench rescues, high-angle rescues, confined space rescues, collapse rescues, and water rescues.

The Raleigh Fire Department currently operates three two-person rescue units. Rescue 2 and Rescue 3 will be removed from service.

The two squad companies will utilize two 2004 American LaFrance pumpers, with additional equipment installed including forcible entry tools, extrication equipment, and a light cache of rescue gear.

Squads will operate as engines in their first or second due territory, but won't have RIT or safety engine territory. They'll also operate only as engines at high-rise fires. All other times at fires, they'll operate as a squad and typically perform ladder company related tasks.

The Operations Division is currently evaluating interested personnel for the Technical Rescue Group companies. ■

## Fire Investigation Task Force Created

For several years, the Office of the Fire Marshal has discussed various ways to improve the quality of the fire investigations conducted by the Raleigh Fire Department fire investigations unit. One idea has come to fruition, the creation of the Capital Area Fire Investigation Task Force.

Announced in March, the multi-agency task force is comprised of members from city, county, and state agencies:

- Raleigh Fire Department – Fire Investigators, Fire Inspectors
- Raleigh Police Department
- City of Raleigh electrical and mechanical inspectors, from other city departments
- Wake County Fire Investigation Team
- City-County Bureau of Investigation (CCBI)
- State Bureau of Investigation (SBI)
- Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF)

“The intent of this task force is to increase the capabilities of our investigations and reduce the number of fires listed as ‘undetermined’ by bringing in subject matter experts from various fields,” notes Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Marshal Peter Brock.

“This concept also extends the working relationships we’ve been using for years,” notes Brock. “The police department, for example, has a detective whose responsibility is working with our team on fire investigations.”

Another benefit of the task force is the sharing of resources between agencies. Chief Brock looks forward to the possibility of an arson dog available locally.

“An SBI agent in Johnston County is applying for a fire investigator’s certification with the intention of obtaining an arson dog for the central region of North Carolina.”

Earlier this year, the Raleigh Fire Department moved its Fire Investigator Team to Fire Station 1. Each platoon is supported by a full-time fire investigator. Each investigator is assisted by part-time fire investigators who are assigned to Station 1.

The fire investigation units are numbered Car 20 (primary) and Car 21 (secondary).

For incidents outside the city of Raleigh, the on-duty Wake County Fire Services investigator (WC1) coordinates activation of the task force. ■

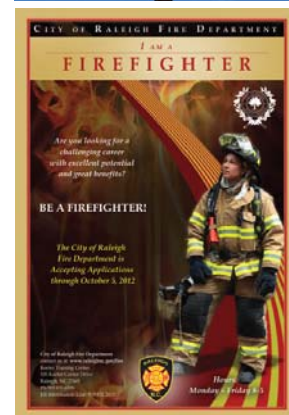
## Training Updates

The hiring process has started for Raleigh Fire Department Recruit Academy 38. Fire station open houses were conducted on two Saturdays in September. Applications were accepted through October 5, and 936 completed applications were received.

Recruitment was conducted using a variety of channels, including a trio of billboards in Raleigh and Garner.



The recruitment campaign also featured new pamphlets and a new poster featuring First Class Firefighter Alex Gutierrez.



Aptitude and physical agility tests will be conducted October 18-20 and October 25-27 by appointment. Practice sessions for both were conducted October 10-13.

After the testing is completed, applications will be reviewed. Applicants will be selected for interviews in early December after background checks are completed. The 26-week recruit academy starts on January 31.

### Fire Department College Fair

A college fair was held at the training center on October 10-11. Prospective students, mostly from the Raleigh Fire Department, had the opportunity to compare schools and learn about certificate and degree programs. Some 75 to 100 people attended and were met by representatives from:

- Columbia Southern University
- Durham Technical Community College
- Fayetteville State University
- Wake technical Community College
- Western Carolina University
- William Peace College
- Wilson Technical Community College
- City of Raleigh tuition reimbursement program.

## Services Updates



The certificate of occupancy for the new apparatus storage building was received in the first week of September. The floor has been acid-washed and an epoxy coat applied. Reserve units and apparatus awaiting repairs will begin being stored in early October.

Two mini pumpers received modifications in September, including removing one of two booster reels, relocating and lowering the remaining reel, and adding new hose and equipment mounts. The 1986 Chevy brush trucks are assigned to Mini 1 at Station 16 and Mini 3 at Station 23.

Specifications are being finished for an engine, two rescue engines, and a rear-mount aerial platform. The purchasing process should start by the end of October, with delivery anticipated in August 2013.

Capital Improvement Funding this year provided for the installation of back-up power sources in all remaining fire stations. The generators were delivered in early October, and installation will begin on Stations 4, 5, 7, 14, and 19, to start. Also that month, other repairs and station maintenance will include roof repair and replacement, and radio maintenance. ■

## Promotions and Appointments

### October 6

Firefighter Brian C. Winn to Lieutenant

### September 8:

Lt. Nicholas L. Murray to Captain

Firefighter John B. Rasor to Lieutenant

### August 4

Lt. Daniel B. Gardner to Captain

Firefighter Justin D. Rose to Lieutenant

### August 1

Capt. Shelton S. White to Facilities Manager

## New Staff

### October 10

Roger C. Dail, Education/Credential Specialist (part-time)

## Retirements

Lt. M. Reginald Hocutt retired on October 1 with 27.2 years of service.



Facilities Manager Capt. A. Randall Cooper retired on August 1 with 28.7 years of service.



Capt. Keith P. Holmstrand retired on August 1, with 24.5 years of service

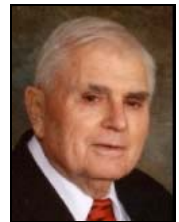


## Deaths

Retired Capt. Clyde R. Carter, 85, died in Cary on August 28. He retired in 1983 with 33.3 years of service.



Retired Capt. Robert D. Truelove, 86, died in Raleigh on August 5. He retired in 1982 with 26.3 years of service.



*Editor's note: Capt. Carter was related to Capt. Truelove by marriage. Carter's wife Vivian is Truelove's sister. Carter's son Donald also retired as a Captain in 2010.*

Three former members of the Raleigh Fire Department also recently passed away: Leonard A. Wood Sr. (1956-1968) died in Benson on September 1. Jimmy Wayland Jones (1968-1977) died in Raleigh on September 14. Michael R. Core (1986-1989) died in Raleigh on October 7.

*Editor's note: Wood was the father of retired Firefighter Kathie J. Wood (1982-1993). ■*

## New Air Monitoring Protocols, Updated Respiratory Policies



Effective August 23, the Raleigh Fire Department implemented new policies and procedures for respiratory protection and atmospheric monitoring at structure fires.

“These represent a significant change to how we’ve protected ourselves during overhaul,” says Battalion Chief and Safety Officer A. C. Rich.

His office, working with a Safety Committee, developed the new protocols for using Air Purifying Respirators (APRs) if atmospheric conditions are suitable.

“Exposure to toxic gases and particles in a structure fire is one of the most significant health risks to firefighters,” Rich adds.

“After the fire is extinguished, we have traditionally removed our SCBAs early into overhaul.”

But he warns, “There are still too many toxins in the atmosphere, even when smoke conditions are very mild.”

The new protocols are designed to combat the hazards of smoke exposure, notably carbon monoxide (CO) and hydrogen cyanide (HCN).

“We’ve known about CO for a long time, but the risks of HCN are relatively new to the fire service.”

HCN is now considered one of the main contributing factors in smoke exposure deaths and illnesses. And minimizing firefighter exposure is critical.

The new procedures add a step between extinguishment and overhaul.

After suppression activities are stopped, firefighters will report to rehab.

As personnel remove their personal protective equip-

ment (PPE), members of a ladder company will begin air monitoring inside the structure.

They’ll be carrying newly issued HCN monitors, and will check the atmosphere inside the structure.

While monitoring inside the structure is under way, the PPE of personnel in rehab will also be checked.

If their gear is saturated with dangerous levels of HCN, ventilation fans will be used to “air out” their gear until they can return to their station and wash their personal equipment.

Based on the HCN readings, firefighters will begin overhaul operations wearing either their self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) or newly issued personal respirators (APR).



“The best option is for firefighters to wear their SCBA the entire time,” says Rich. “However, if conditions are favorable and the Incident Commander deems a downgrade in respiratory protection is appropriate, then, and only then, may the respirators be used.”

He calls it a trade-off of sorts. Breathe easier with additional weight (SCBA) or breathe a little harder with no weight (APR). But, he reminds, SCBAs must be worn if there’s any smoke.

The new procedures apply to all ranks. Investigators and chief officers who want to enter structures during overhaul are required to wear the same protection as firefighters. ■

### About Hydrogen Cyanide

“HCN is similar in effect to CO, as it’s also a chemical asphyxiant and prevents the body’s tissue from absorbing oxygen,” notes Chief Rich. “These two chemicals together are often called the ‘Toxic Twins’ due to their compounded effects on humans when exposed.”

Fire smoke is the leading cause of cyanide poisoning in the U.S. And smoke exposure is the only condition where CO and HCN are together in the same atmospheric environment.

Symptoms of HCN exposure are very similar to CO exposure, however, HCN is 35 times more toxic than CO. Therefore, the effects may be more rapid on individuals who are exposed.

“HCN and CO are present at all fires and we must be vigilant in our respiratory practices,” says Rich. ■

## Photo Gallery



Firefighter Jay Melton sprays foam into a vat of tar that caught fire at a construction company on Chapel Hill Road on Oct. 5. The billowing black smoke was visible for miles. Engine 8 was first on scene.



Heavy equipment caught fire on Sept. 9 at a construction company on Pleasant Valley Road beside Fire Station 17. It was reported by a police officer investigating a burglar alarm. The fire was quickly controlled.



Lt. Charles Smith mops the apparatus floor of Station 23 on Sept. 1, in preparation for monthly inspections.



Raleigh's 1905 American LaFrance steamer performed a live demonstration on Saturday, Aug. 11, at the South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo in downtown Raleigh. It was joined by Charlotte's 1903 steam engine. The Queen City also demonstrated their 1873 hand engine.



Shop cooks Steven Wagner (left), Travis Menges (middle), and Jason Baker (right) prepare the pig at a retirement luncheon for Captain and Facilities Manager Randall Cooper on July 26.



The twenty-eight probationary firefighters of Recruit Academy 37 graduated on July 13 in a ceremony at Meymandi Concert Hall.

See more photos at  
[www.raleighfirenews.org](http://www.raleighfirenews.org)

## FIREMAN'S BALL ON NOV. 17



The closing event of the Raleigh Fire Department's centennial year is an old-fashioned fireman's ball at the Raleigh Convention Center on Saturday, November 17.

The ball will include a formal dinner, a pre-dinner reception, a cash bar, a dessert bar, dancing, and more. It will include a special ceremony, historical displays, and a few surprises.

Tickets are \$35 per person and must be purchased in advance. **The deadline for ordering tickets is November 1.** Please note that tickets will not be mailed, and will be available for pick-up at the door.

Visit [www.RFD100.com](http://www.RFD100.com) to purchase your tickets, and for event information including details on discounted hotel rooms at the Marriott Center City Hotel.

Dress code is class "A" uniforms for active personnel. Retirees are requested to wear class "A" uniforms, black-tie, or coat and tie.

Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be part of history. There will never be another 100 year anniversary.

## RETIREE CHRISTMAS PARTY, DEC. 7

The annual Retiree Christmas Party will be held on a weekday this year: Friday, December 7, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Two hours for socializing, with food served at 1:00 p.m. This year's location has changed to the Raleigh Fireman's Club, 12601 Bayleaf Church Road.

The cost is \$11.00 per person for bar-b-que and fried chicken, with all the trimmings.. Please send payment to Al Moore, 6500 Secret Drive, Raleigh, NC, 27612. Phone: 919-848-1685. Retirees, spouses, widows, family, and friends are invited.

No refunds after December 3. Thanks again to Al and Betty Moore for managing the money. ■

## Explorer Banquet, November 3

Raleigh Fire Explorer Post 108 is conducting their annual banquet at the Keeter Training Center on Saturday, November 3, from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The event will include food, games, music, a demonstration by the Explorers, and a changing of the Chief ceremony. All active and retired firefighters and their families are invited to attend.

Food is \$10 per person. RSVP is requested by October 25. Please contact Explorer Jason Lester at [Blacklantern5@yahoo.com](mailto:Blacklantern5@yahoo.com).

Organized in 1985, the post has a current membership of twenty area youths, plus their fire department advisors. They hold regular meetings, conduct regular training, visit fire stations, attend national competitions, and help firefighters at working fires.



Over the years, many of the post's members have successfully pursued careers with the Raleigh Fire Department, including Mark Armstrong, Ashley Brantley, Eric Ferguson, Lonnie Glover, Andrew Johnson, Mark Kelling, Nick Rhodes, Jeff Silver, John Sturchio, Christopher Townsend, Jerry Ward, Walt Warner, Steve Welch, Chris Wilson, and Paul Wyatt.

The Explorers extend their appreciation to each and every person who has mentored, taught, tutored, and encouraged our future firefighters. They appreciate the time that's been taken to become their teachers, their role models, and their friends.

Learn more about the Raleigh Fire Explorers at <http://www.Raleigh108.com>. ■

## 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](http://www.raleighfirenews.org). TO LEARN ABOUT THE RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT, VISIT [www.raleigh-nc.org/fire](http://www.raleigh-nc.org/fire).

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTHLY RETIREE BREAKFAST  
PAM'S RESTAURANT, 5111 WESTERN BOULEVARD  
SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH (C.A. LLOYD ORGANIZER)  
FOURTH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH (G. M. DAVIS ORGANIZER)  
7:30 A.M.

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

EXPLORER BANQUET  
KEETER TRAINING CENTER, 105 KEETER CENTER DRIVE  
3:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.  
Nov. 3

FIREMAN'S BALL  
RALEIGH CONVENTION CENTER  
6:00 P.M. TO 11:00 P.M.  
Nov. 17

RETIREE CHRISTMAS PARTY  
RALEIGH FIREMAN'S CLUB, 12601 BAYLEAF CHURCH ROAD  
11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.  
DEC. 7

## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



This year's activities for Fire Prevention Week, October 7-13, included open houses at all fire stations, a kid's night at Chic-fil-A at Capital Crossing Shopping Center, and a display at Crabtree Valley Mall. ■