



# Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter



Volume 6, Issue 2

Spring 2013

## New Rescue Services



Rescue 1 with A platoon. Lee Wilson photo.

On Tuesday, February 5, a heavy rescue company and two squad companies were placed in service.

Rescue 1 at Station 21 is equipped with a 2007 Pierce Lance rescue, and with a crew of five. It replaced three two-person rescue units that were located at Stations 7, 14, and 19.

“The three rescues had the tools, but not enough people,” notes Asst. Chief of Operations Danny Poole. “With five firefighters, they’re now properly staffed for both technical rescue and fireground tasks.”

The sixth position, he adds, was reclassified as a fifth

*continued on page 2*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 New Rescue Services – History Book Has Arrived
- 2 Rescue (continued) – Mulch Grinder Rescued
- 3 Training News – Operations News
- 4-5 Raleigh Fire Department Statistics - 2012
- 6 Photo Gallery
- 7 Services News – Office of the Fire Marshal News – Retirement s – Deaths – Old Station 4 Demolished
- 8 Calendar of Events – Where Are They Now?

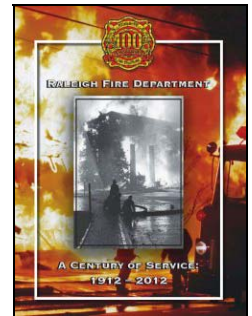
## History Book Has Arrived

The Raleigh Fire Department centennial history book has been printed. The hardcover, full-cover book contains 264 pages with over 2,100 photos including over 950 portraits.

Books ordered by personnel are being distributed to fire stations and fire department facilities.

Books ordered by retirees can be picked up at the Keeter Training Center, and will be available for pick up at the annual retiree luncheon on May 1. Mail orders are being fulfilled by the printer, Strawbridge Studios.

Additional copies of the book will be made available. Watch for announcements on the web site [www.raleighfiremuseum.org/book](http://www.raleighfiremuseum.org/book).



Production started in February 2012, and the first portraits were taken by Strawbridge Studios in April. Crew photos of all stations were submitted in the fall, and the winter was spent finishing the writing and design.

Three earlier history books were published in 1984, 2002, and 2007. The 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary book is still available from the printer, at [www.mtpublishing.com](http://www.mtpublishing.com). ■



Battalion Chief, which added another resource to the city. The members of the new rescue company include former rescue personnel, along with ladder company and USAR members.

In addition to Rescue 1, two rescue engines were placed in service at Station 14 and Station 15. Called Squads, the 2004 American La-France pumpers were modified with additional technical rescue equipment including hydraulic extrication tools, rescue jacks, saws, a torch, and an inflatable boat.



“With the two squads and Rescue 1, along with the ladder companies, we still have city-wide coverage for extrication,” adds Poole. “They also add additional manpower when needed for technical rescue calls or structure fires.”

Each squad is also assigned a support vehicle, which will respond on certain types of technical rescue calls.



Squad 14 staffs the reserve rescue unit, a 2007 Pierce Lance that carries additional equipment. Squad 15 staffs a tractor-drawn collapse rescue unit.

The rescue and squad companies are assisted by Ladder 3, which is staffed with special-trained personnel, and Engine 25, which staffs the swift-water rescue unit USAR 801.

All eight ladder companies also carry extrication equipment.

### Technical Rescue on Gresham Lake Road, March 2

The capabilities of the new units were demonstrated on Saturday, March 2, when Squad 15 and New Hope Engine 1 were dispatched at 10:56 a.m. to a reported entrapment at a landscape supply company on Gresham Lake Road.

While en route, Squad 15 was advised that the male patient was trapped in an above-ground hopper used for grinding mulch. The company officer requested a technical rescue response, which added Rescue 1, two Battalion Chiefs, the Division Chief, and a haz-mat unit. Ladder 2 was also requested for additional manpower.

Upon arrival, the Squad 15 officer established command, and completed the OSHA paperwork for entry into a confined-space area. New Hope Engine 1 was assigned management of the in/out accountability tags.

A safety perimeter was established, a staging area designated for incoming units, and the first Rescue Group designated with two firefighters performing a survey of the accident site.



Mulch hopper extrication, Gresham Lake Road.

The worker was trapped up to his waist in the hopper, with his legs pinned by auger blades. Extrication was started using hydraulic cutters and an exothermic torch. Hose lines were deployed, in case of fire from the mulch in the hopper and to keep the machinery cool during the cutting.

“They cut some of the blades, to free space for the hydraulic spreader to move the remaining blades away from the patient,” notes Battalion Chief and Emergency Services Manager Frank McLaurin, who also responded.

Due to the time-consuming process of the extrication, Squad 14 was also requested as a relief company. They arrived at 12:48 p.m. Nine minutes later the patient's right leg was extricated. Another thirty minutes was required before his left leg was freed at 1:33 p.m.

Using a small crane at the plant, the victim was lifted from inside the machine and onto the ground.

The patient was removed at 1:43 p.m. Eight minutes later, he was en route to the hospital. After a short debriefing, the crews began demobilizing. Command was terminated at 2:39 p.m. and all units were returned to service. ■

## Training News



Mobile Simulation Lab. Lee Wilson photo.

The EMS Division placed a mobile simulator lab in service as Car 521 on March 6. The former reserve rescue unit, a 2000 Freightliner/American LaFrance, is used as a mobile classroom for EMT recertification.

"We can pull up to the station and the firefighters can come outside, and be tested on patient scenarios," notes EMS Coordinator Capt. Doug Campbell. "We don't have to set anything up at the station, so the companies don't have to mark out of service."

A computer-aided mannequin has been ordered, that will provide recorded data on the performance of the simulated patient treatment.

### More Training News

Recruit Academy 38 took their state EMT exam on April 3, and started their fire training on April 4. The twenty-seven recruits are expected to graduate on August 9.

The 2013 promotional process for Battalion Chief recently completed, and the new list took effect April 1. Promotional testing for Captains, Lieutenants, and First Class Firefighters will be conducted later this year.



Lt. Jason Ramsey teaching. Mike Legeros photo.

Training on fire and rescue techniques for electric and hybrid vehicles recently completed. Eight hours of hose line and pumping has started, which includes training on new low-pressure nozzles being issued to all engine and ladder companies.

The training on the new nozzles concludes a program to increase the performance of attack lines, and to demonstrate new techniques for applying water on fires inside rooms.

Twelve hours of RIT and mayday training will also take place this year.

Rescue Technician training is in the planning stages for the new members on Rescue 1, Squad 14 and 15, Ladder 3, and Engine 25, which staffs the water rescue unit USAR 801.

Haz-Mat Technician and Haz-Mat Chemistry classes will be hosted this year for students from agencies statewide. ❖

## Operations News



Battalion 1 relocated to Station 19 from Station 15 on February 27. New office space and living quarters were constructed in the dormitory area. The battalion is comprised of Stations 15, 19, 22, 25, 27, and 28.

Also in February, aide positions were created for the three Division Chiefs. One firefighter from each platoon was transferred to Station 8. They are assigned to Car 20.

The aides assist with a range of administrative duties, including daily staffing documentation, managing vacation requests, performing call back, and miscellaneous scheduling tasks. They're also utilized for data collection and research and development.

At incidents, the aides assist with accountability. They're also the drivers for the Division Chiefs, allowing the chief officers to more closely monitor radio traffic and perform pre-arrival command functions. ■

## Operations

Incidents 36,582  
Runs ▼ 53,607

## Engine Companies

E1 2,151  
E2 1,493  
E3 2,547  
E4 1,142  
E5 1,412  
E6 1,250  
E7 1,844  
E8 1,774  
E9 1,544  
E10 1,379  
E11 2,096  
E12 2,433  
E13 1,405  
E14 1,475  
E15 1,967  
E16 1,590  
E17 1,178  
E18 1,129  
E19 1,951  
E20 1,368  
E21 1,248  
E22 1,294  
E23 893  
E24 788  
E25 657  
E26 984  
E27 581  
E28 547

## Ladder Companies

L1 (Sta 4) 847  
L2 (Sta 11) 1,726  
L3 (Sta 17) 957  
L4 (Sta 1) 2,347  
L5 (Sta 22) 833  
L6 (Sta 24) 396  
L7 (Sta 20) 788  
L8 (Sta 26) 486

# Raleigh Fire Department Statistics



## Overview

Fire Chief	John T. McGrath	Stations	27
Budget	\$ 50,483,534	Engines	28
Personnel	575	Ladders	8
City Pop. (2011)	416,468	Rescues	3
City Size (sq. miles)	144.39	Battalions	4

## Cardiac Saves

The Raleigh Fire Department helped revive 98 patients in cardiac arrest in 2012, of which 39% (38 patients) were discharged from the hospital. This is the highest rate in the nation. Of those discharged, 94% were released with good neurological function.

## Public Education

The Raleigh Fire Department documented 305 programs last year with 41,512 participating children and adults. These include fire station visits, fire company-initiated programs, school and institutional programs, and Fire Prevention Week activities. Eleven episodes of FireWatch were also produced for the Raleigh Television Network.

## Training

A total of 2,778.5 hours of instruction were conducted at the Keeter Training Center in 2012 with over 8,982 students receiving 61,978 individual hours of instruction. The classes included instruction for Recruit Academy 37, which graduated on July 13, 2012. Other course topics ranged from Engine and Ladder Company Operations to Educational Methodology to Fire Officer I and II. Training center facilities were also used through the year for meetings, special events, and testing of applicants and active personnel.

## Incident Types

The Raleigh Fire Department complies with the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) version 5.0. Below are 2012 incidental totals in nine major categories:

False alarms, false calls	4,856	Overpressure, ruptures, explosion, overheating (no fire)	82
Fire	1,143	Service call (Child locked in vehicle, water removal, assist police, etc.)	2,267
Good intent (Smoke investigation, wrong location, controlled burn, etc.)	3,924	Severe weather or natural disaster	24
EMS and rescue	22,942	Special incident type	37
Hazard conditions, no fire (Spills, leaks, power lines, etc.)	1,279		
<b>Total</b>			<b>36,582</b>

# January 1 – December 31, 2012

## Office of the Fire Marshal

This division is the enforcement, educational and informational arm of the Raleigh Fire Department. They perform site inspections, issue permits, enforce fire codes, and coordinate pre-fire planning for buildings and facilities within the city. They are also responsible for conducting fire investigations, and providing public fire education. In 2012, the division conducted 11,508 inspections of new and existing buildings, and performed 4,254 plan reviews.

## Fire Investigation

The Fire Investigation Unit responded to 290 calls for service in 2012. They investigated 180 accidental fires, 61 intentional fires, and 10 naturally caused fires. Of the arson fires, eleven resulted in arrests. The causes of the accidental fires:

Available Combustibles	19	11%	Improper Storage	9	5%
Candle/Incense	1	1%	Mechanical Failure	42	23%
Chimney	4	2%	Open Flame	6	3%
Cooking	38	21%	Other/Unspecified Heat Source	8	4%
Dryer	1	1%	Smoking Materials	32	18%
Electrical	16	9%	Spontaneous Combustion	1	1%
Heating Equipment	1	1%	Unknown	2	1%
<b>Total</b>			<b>180</b>	<b>100%</b>	

## Services

The Support Services Division oversees thirty facilities including twenty-seven fire stations, a fleet of 157 vehicles, and an inventory of supplies, equipment, clothing, and uniforms. Approximately \$300,000 is spent annually on facility maintenance and repairs, and about \$450,000 is spent each year for fleet maintenance. Around \$125,000 worth of uniforms and clothing supplies is stocked, not including personal-protective equipment (PPE) for firefighters. The fire department anticipates spending well over \$500,000 in fuel in the coming year, and has over \$180,000 budgeted for electricity at buildings.

## Information Technology

Staff fielded 2,227 support questions in 2012, including 147 questions after hours, 846 questions about the Firehouse records management system, 205 questions about using and accessing e-mail, and 222 general questions about systems, software, and devices.

## Milestones

The year's milestones included a realignment of haz-mat assets, as part of a special operations reorganization; expansion of the fire department's office space in the Dillon Building; the relocation of the fire investigators to Station 1; the graduation of Recruit Academy 37; the construction of an apparatus storage building at the Support Services Center; a forty-day project that found, checked, and mapped every fire hydrant in the city; the creation of Capital Area Fire Investigation Task Force; and a year-long celebration of the Raleigh Fire Department's 100th anniversary.

## Rescue Units

R1 (Sta 19)	549
R2 (Sta 7)	788
R3 (Sta 14)	656

## Special Units

Air 1 (Sta 8)	148
HM1 (Sta 2)	65
HM2 (Sta 15)	80

## Chief Officers

B1 (Sta 15)	471
B2 (Sta 12)	525
B3 (Sta 8)	407
B4 (Sta 23)	269
C10 (Sta 8)	192

## Busiest Engines

E3	2,547
E12	2,433
E1	2,151
E11	2,096
E15	1,967
E19	1,951
E7	1,844
E8	1,774
E16	1,590
E9	1,544
E2	1,493
E14	1,475
E5	1,412
E13	1,405
E10	1,379
E20	1,368
E22	1,294
E6	1,250
E21	1,248
E17	1,178
E4	1,142
E18	1,129
E26	984
E23	893
E24	788
E25	657

# Photo Gallery



Firefighter Zack Kahan (left) and First Class Firefighter Brian McGinnis (right) from Engine 5-C are assisted with hydrant maintenance by five-year-old community member Ben Sri on Apr. 2.



Twenty-seven recently promoted and appointed members were honored in a ceremony at City Council Chambers on Friday, Feb 16. The event was originally scheduled in January, but delayed due to weather.



"B" platoon members practice pump and nozzle operations on Walnut Street on Mar. 30, beside the new housing community under construction across the street from the Keeter Training Center.



Recruit Academy 38 members stand at attention for instructor Capt. Lowell Smith on Friday, Feb. 1. The twenty-seven recruits started their twenty-eight week academy on Jan. 31.



First Class Firefighter Jennifer Patterson (L3-C) fights a woods fire behind McNelly Drive on Mar. 15, along with Engine 16, and Engine 17.



Engine 9 was first on scene at 122 Lakestone Drive on Jan. 27. Heavy smoke and soon fire was showing from a two-story, semi-detached garage. The fire was controlled in thirty-seven minutes, and with no extension to the rest of the single-family dwelling.

## Services News

New vehicles for Battalions 2, 3, and 4 are in service, along with an earlier delivery to Battalion 1. The 2013



Chevy Tahoes are equipped with four-wheel drive. Fleet Services will also start service testing apparatus in April, and will continue through October.

Generator bids for Stations 3, 6, 9, 10, 12, 21 and the training center have been awarded. This completes the multi-year program to install emergency power supplies at all fire department facilities.

Contracts have been awarded for concrete repairs at Stations 10,12,15, and 16; roof replacements at Stations 10, 12, and 19; and roof repairs at Station 4 and 21. Work should start in May.

Structural firefighting gloves are being reevaluated. The focus will be on improved physical and thermal protection, as well as dexterity. The gloves will meet the new NFPA 1971-2013 standard that takes effect this year.

Hose testers will be used for the first time this year. Five Flamefighter HT-50 wheeled testing carts will be assigned to each Battalion. They replace the traditional process of using a pumping engine, which can delay responses when calls are received during hose testing. The new devices are self-powered and can test four sections of hose at 600 PSI.

Every section of hose at each fire station is tested annually. ❖

## Office of the Fire Marshal News

The Fire Marshal's office recently said goodbye to Deputy Fire Marshal Chris Warren on January 1, and Deputy Fire Marshal John Pinder on March 1. The hiring of their replacements is presently underway. ❖

### 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).

## Retirements

Senior Firefighter Charlie Patterson retired with 27.6 years on March 1.



Finance Officer Mark A. Scaringelli retired with 5.4 years in the fire department, and 14.8 years with the city on March 1.



## Deaths

Retired Capt. Gerald O. Tuttle passed away in Raleigh on February 12. He retired in 1996 with 27.9 years of service.



Retired Capt. Ollie L. Blake passed away in Raleigh on April 1. He retired in 1982 with 27.3 years of service.



*Editor's note: Capt. Blake's brother F. Laurel Blake was a Captain who died off-duty in 1979 with 25.5 years of service. Laurel's brother's son Chuck Blake was also a member of the fire department from 1981 to 1988.*

## Old Station 4 Demolished



Demolition underway. Mike Legeros photo.

Old Station 4 on Wake Forest Road was demolished in March. A mattress store is planned for the site. The fire station operated from 1963 to 1993, and remained a city office space until 1997. It later housed a software company. ■

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

RETIREE LUNCHEON  
KEETER TRAINING CENTER  
105 KEETER CENTER DRIVE  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 12:00 NOON

EIGHTH ANNUAL NC FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL  
NASH SQUARE, 227 W. MARTIN STREET  
SATURDAY, MAY 4  
10:00 A.M. (PARADE), 1:00 P.M. (SERVICE)

CARDIAC SAVES CEREMONY  
FLETCHER OPERA THEATER  
2 E. SOUTH STREET, RALEIGH  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 7:00 P.M.

SEVENTH ANNUAL NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS  
GOLF TOURNAMENT  
BENTWINDS COUNTRY CLUB, FUQUAY-VARINA  
MONDAY, JUNE 10 - TEE TIME IS 10:00 A.M.

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

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

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Retired Capt. D. Stanford Dockery (1977 to 2007), who lives in Raleigh, is recovering from injuries received in a motorcycle accident on Poole Road in February. He suffered a severe dislocation of his left elbow. He's doing well, and considers himself blessed to be recovering with so little harm. He'll be undergoing physical therapy through April. ■