



# Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter



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Spring 2014

## New Apparatus Delivered



Four new pieces of fire apparatus were delivered to the City of Raleigh Fire Department in February from Pierce Manufacturing of Appleton, WI. They included a new type of fire truck that's a first for the city.

"We updated the design of two pumpers so they can also function as rescue trucks," says Assistant Chief of Services Garry Spain.

Called rescue pumpers, the identical 2014 Pierce Arrow XT engines will be assigned to Squad 14 and Squad 15. Those units were created in February 2013, as part of a reconfiguration of the fire department's technical rescue resources.

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## Facility News



Construction started in February of Fire Station 13 at 12117 Leesville Road. Located in northwest Raleigh, It will house a single engine company.

The 10,198 square-foot building includes three apparatus bays. The architect is Williard Ferm Architects PA, who also designed Fire Stations 26, 27, and 28.



In March, the administrative spaces of the Raleigh Fire Department were expanded into the mezzanine level of the Dillon Building on Martin Street.

Operations Division members were moved from the second floor, relocating Assistant Chief Danny Poole and his aide, the day office of the Division Chiefs and their aides, and Payroll Specialist Ann Marie Cadman.

Two members of the IT team were also moved to the new office area, which can also serve as an operations center during special events and emergencies. ■

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"Squad 14 and 15 respond as engines in their regular station territory," says Spain, "but they also respond as rescue units to other calls throughout the city."

As a result, they carry additional equipment, ranging from hydraulic cutting and spreading tools to an inflatable boat.

They're equipped to respond to a range of emergencies, including vehicle or machinery extrication, high angle and confined space rescue, and flat or swift water environments.

### **More Space for More Equipment**

The squads currently operate 2004 American LaFrance Eagle pumpers, which have the most amount of compartment space available of any pumper in the fleet.

For their new trucks, the 2014 Pierce engines were designed with extra space.

"There are coffin compartments on the top of the truck, for example," says Spain. "There's also a bumper compartment for a hydraulic Hurst tool."



There's a retractable rear ladder, he adds, to assist with access to the top compartments. Other features include an external winch that can be mounted on all four sides.

The rescue pumpers are equipped with 1500 GPM pumps and 500 gallon water tanks, which is the standard for all engines purchased by the city.

### **Third New Engine and New Ladder Truck**

Also delivered in February were a 2014 Pierce Arrow XT "regular" engine, to be assigned to Engine 19, and a 2014 Pierce Arrow XT aerial platform, for Ladder 2.

"The ladder truck is actually going to Ladder 1 at Station 4 for a number of months," says Spain. "It's too big for Ladder 2's quarters at Station 11."

But Station 11 is being remodeled this year, with an enlarged apparatus bay to house the new ladder truck and any future apparatus of similar size.

The ladder truck has some special features, including a low-profile design. The vehicle's height was kept to a minimum to ensure it could fit inside Station 1 and other older engine houses with lower door heights.

"For those times the truck might be filling in at another station," explains Spain.



### **More Special Features**

There's a front-facing camera below the windshield, to enhance the driver's field of vision. The ladder includes LED lighting along the rungs, to assist with night operations. And the outrigger pads are magnetic, which improves the speed at which the aerial can be deployed.

All four of the new vehicles are equipped with rear-mounted cameras, an added safety feature. When the truck is being backed, a monitor activates beside the driver.

"The cameras are an extra set of eyes, to help both the driver and the person on the ground, who is directing the driver when he's backing the vehicle," says Spain.

All four of the new vehicles also include low-voltage LED scene lighting. These replace older high-voltage halogen lights, which require the use of onboard generators. ■

### **ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER**

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## RRT-4 Responds to Smithfield

On Wednesday, February 19, 2014, the Raleigh Fire Department responded to a hazardous materials incident at 2233 Wal Pat Road in Smithfield. Workers reported the medium-sized release of an unknown gas, yellow-green in color, from a 150-pound pressurized cylinder at a metal recycling plant.

Smithfield Fire Department and Johnston County EMS were initially dispatched. Upon arrival, crews found that heavy equipment had damaged a pressurized gas cylinder that was located among other scrap metal debris.

One worker experienced difficulty breathing and vomiting, and was transported by ambulance to WakeMed. Three others were transported to Johnston Health by private vehicles.

Johnston County Emergency Management also responded. They suspected the gas was chlorine and contacted the state emergency management office to request a regional haz-mat team response from Raleigh.

A conference call between the two, Raleigh's haz-mat Battalion Chief (Battalion 3), and Raleigh's Regional Response Team 4 officer determined that a level three response was appropriate, requiring three RRT units with twelve haz-mat technicians.



*Jason Thompson/JocoFire photo*

Responding were Haz-Mat 2 (staffed by Eng 27), Haz-Mat 3 (recon unit staffed by Eng 8), Haz-Mat 4 (decon unit from Sta 22, staffed by Ladder 5), and Car 55 (RRT officer). Driving distances varied between 30 and 40 miles.

After the arrival of Haz-Mat 3 and Car 55, the Haz-Mat Branch of the operation was established. Smithfield Fire Department was the Incident Commander.

Crews made an initial entry for reconnaissance, to determine cylinder location, take pictures of the scene and monitor the atmosphere to determine the presence and amount of chlorine gas.

As entry was being prepared, Haz-Mat 4 arrived. A site safety plan was written and a pre-entry briefing was held. The reconnaissance entry report confirmed that a 150-pound gas cylinder had been damaged and was leaking small amounts of gas.

Crews made another entry using Level "B" personal protective equipment with self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). They placed a cover over the cylinder's broken valve, which contained the leak.



*Jason Thompson/JocoFire photo*

During the entry of each two-person team, a second two-person team stood ready as back-up, in the event the first team needed rescue.

After containing the leak, the area around the cylinder was taped off and an environmental clean-up company was contacted by the facility to pick up the damaged cylinder. All units were demobilized and a post-incident briefing was held by the RRT-4 officer. ❖

## Training News

Recruit Academy 39 started on March 24 with thirty-four recruits under the leadership of Captain Phil Jernigan.

Also in March, planning started on training for new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). The equipment will be issued to the entire department in the coming months.

Fire operations training is underway during March and April at Central Carolina Community College in Sanford, with early feedback that personnel are enjoying going "back to basics."

Technical Rescue (TR) Ropes certification training is underway for Special Operations Command members. They have sixty-six members across three platoons. Training will be completed in early May. Four other certification classes are planned: General, Vehicle/Machinery, Confined Space, and Trench. ■

## Operations

Incidents 37,144  
Runs ▼ 55,270

### Engine Companies

E1 1,922  
E2 1,740  
E3 2,684  
E4 1,160  
E5 1,291  
E6 1,228  
E7 2,027  
E8 1,981  
E9 1,484  
E10 1,586  
E11 2,129  
E12 2,412  
E13 1,388  
E14/Sq14 1,760  
E15/Sq15 2,426  
E16 1,628  
E17 1,234  
E18 1,065  
E19 2,075  
E20 1,396  
E21 1,369  
E22 1,250  
E23 870  
E24 792  
E25 793  
E26 927  
E27 606  
E28 587

*Engine 14 and 15 were renamed Squad 14 and 15 on 2/5/13. They began responding to additional types of calls, for their newly added technical rescue capabilities.*

### Ladder Companies

L1 838  
L2 1,852  
L3 997  
L4 2,231  
L5 866  
L6 403  
L7 913  
L8 467

# Raleigh Fire Department Statistics



## Overview

Fire Chief	John T. McGrath	Stations	27
Budget	\$ 51,394,308	Engines	28
Personnel	577	Ladders	8
City Pop. (2012)	423,179	Rescues	1
City Size (sq. miles)	145	Battalions	5

## Cardiac Saves

The Raleigh Fire Department helped revive 550 non-traumatic patients in cardiac arrest in 2013, of which 14% (79 patients) were discharged from the hospital. Of those discharged, 90% were released with good neurological function.

## Public Education

The Raleigh Fire Department conducted 325 programs last year with 27,581 participating children and adults. These include citizen visits to fire stations, programs initiated by the engine, ladder, and rescue companies, school and institutional programs, and activities during Fire Prevention Week. Ten episodes of FireWatch were also produced for the Raleigh Television Network.

## Training

A total of 3,193.5 hours of instruction were conducted at the Keeter Training Center in 2013 with 10,100 students receiving 70,008 individual hours of instruction. The classes included six months of instruction for Recruit Academy 38, which graduated on August 9, 2013. Other course topics ranged from Emergency Vehicle Driving to Technical Rescue Operations to Firefighter Safety/RIT. 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 2013 incident totals in ten major categories:

Fire (Structures, vehicles, woods and grass, etc.)	1,131	Service call (Child locked in vehicle, water removal, assist police, etc.)	2,323
Overpressure, ruptures, explosion, overheating (no fire)	100	Good intent call (Smoke investigation, controlled burn, wrong location, etc.)	4,274
EMS and rescue (Vehicle accidents, medical emergencies, etc.)	23,175	False alarm and false calls	4,863
Hazard conditions, no fire (Spills, leaks, power lines, etc.)	1,206	Severe weather or natural disaster	16
		Special incident type	31
		Other	25
<b>Total</b>			<b>37,144</b>

# January 1 – December 31, 2013

## 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 2013, the division performed 10,364 inspections of existing buildings, including commercial, industrial, and institutional occupancies. These activities included issuing permits and conducting consultations. For new construction, the division conducted 4,450 plan reviews and 4,456 field inspections.

## Fire Investigation

This unit responded to 284 calls for service in 2013. They investigated 166 accidental fires, 63 intentional fires, and five naturally caused fires. The causes of the accidental fires:

Available Combustibles	9	6%	Improper Storage	4	3%
Candle	6	4%	Mechanical Failure	34	22%
Cooking	46	29%	Open Flame	7	4%
Electrical	23	15%	Unspecified Heat Source	6	4%
Heating Equipment	4	3%	Smoking Materials	17	11%
<b>Total</b>			<b>156</b>	<b>100%</b>	

## Services

This division provides support to all divisions of the fire department, and oversees thirty facilities (buildings and land) including twenty-seven fire stations, a fleet of 174 vehicles (fire apparatus and support vehicles), and an inventory of supplies, equipment, clothing, and uniforms.

Over 5,000 work requests were completed in 2013, including over 1,000 fleet maintenance and repair requests. That included regular replacement of over 140 tires. For clothing and equipment, more than 480 pairs of shoes were purchased last year. New personal-protective equipment (PPE) was also issued to new recruits and line personnel, replacing outdated or damaged gear.

## Information Technology

Staff responded to 1,990 support questions in 2013, including 101 questions submitted after business hours. The requests included 590 questions about the Firehouse records management system, 237 questions about using and accessing e-mail, and 130 general questions about systems, software, and devices.

## Milestones

Last year's milestones included conducted Recruit Academy 38 (January to August); created a heavy rescue company and two squad companies (February); created a fifth battalion (February); relocated Battalion 1 to Station 19 (February); added aides for the assistant chiefs of Operations, Services, and Training (February); published a centennial history book (March); added an Assistant Fiscal and Administrative Officer (March); added a mobile EMS simulation lab (April); assumed sole responsibility for commercial fireworks permits in the city (July); added a Division Chief to the training staff (July); adopted new fireground procedures (August); conducted a nine-day USAR Structural Collapse Technician school with Task Force 8 (October); replaced all handheld radios (fall); completed a multi-year program to install emergency power supplies at all facilities; completed design work and site preparation for Station 13. ■

## Rescue Units

R1 (Sta 21)	839
R2	75
R3	62

*Rescue 2 and 3 were removed from service 2/5/13.*

## Chief Officers

B1 (Sta 19)	386
B2 (Sta 12)	528
B3 (Sta 8)	439
B4 (Sta 23)	233
B5 (Sta 9)	525
C20 (Sta 8)	218

*Battalion 5 was placed in service 2/5/13.*

## Special Units

Air 1 (Sta 5)	174
HM1 (Sta 2)	56
HM2 (Sta 27)	75
HM3 (Sta 8)	56

## Busiest Engines

E3	2,684
E15/Sq15	2,426
E12	2,412
E11	2,129
E19	2,075
E7	2,027
E8	1,981
E1	1,922
E14/Sq14	1,760
E2	1,740

## Also in 2013

*Raleigh Fire Explorer Post #108 members assisted at 30 working fires.*

*The Raleigh Fire Museum recorded 260 visitors, during both regular monthly openings and special events.*

# Photo Gallery



New Deputy Fire Marshals Michael Barnes, Cory Campbell, and Kristin Higgins are administered the oath of office by Assistant Deputy Clerk Ralph Puccini at the City Clerk's office on March 27.



Recruit Academy 39 members learn to stand at attention on their first morning at the training center on March 24.



Fire Chief John McGrath was Grand Marshal at the St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown Raleigh on Saturday, March 15.



Engine 3 members on "B" platoon prepare to attack a vehicle fire on Haywood Street at East Hargett Street on March 7.



Engine 11 was first arriving at a fully-involved mobile home fire on Branchwater Circle in Stony Brook North Mobile Home Park on February 9.



On Saturday, February 8, United Professional Firefighters of Raleigh members participated in a special event at the Raleigh Fire Museum. They presented a framed montage of the city's retired and fallen black firefighters to Dr. E. B Palmer and his wife Juanita, founders and operators of Raleigh's African American Cultural Complex.

## New Staff

Thirty-four firefighter recruits were hired on March 24:

Jeremy P. Ardner	William C. Henderson
Nicholas Azan	Kristopher K. Hinnant
Emmet R. Bagwell	Travis M. Holland
Anthony R. Battaglia	Hipolito Lara Jr.
Brian M. Bello	Todd E. Lineberger
Sylvester J. Brooks	Phillip M. Mack
Samuel T. Brown	Mark M. Mancini
Timothy C. Caldwell	Travis B. Parrish
Nicholas Campasano II	Adam R. Pearce
Miles P. Canady	Mark T. Pearce
Nicholas D. Christopoulos	Sandra N. Prier
Micha J. Cobb	Al'Landrew U. Shepperson
Caleb J. Creech	George A. Smith
Christopher M. Davis	Erin L. Sullivan
Rebecca E. Davis	Diana N. Trout
Aaron P. Dickson	James R. Wood
Stedman T. Greggs	Marshall P. Wrenn

## Promotions

### April 5

Promoted to Captain:

Lt. Andrew B. Coley

Promoted to Lieutenant:

Senior Firefighter James C. Lawrence

### March 8

Promoted to Captain:

Lt. Roy E. Byrd

Promoted to Lieutenant:

Senior Firefighter Donald W. Griffin II

Senior Firefighter Robert C. Vradenburgh.

## Transitions

Senior Firefighter Eric D. Stephenson resigned on March 10. He's entered the United States Army, to join Special Forces.

First Class Firefighter Clara P. Irurita resigned on February 5, 2014, to relocate to Washington D.C. for a job opportunity.

Lt. Bobby Joe Page resigned on January 28, 2014, to pursue other opportunities.

## Retirements

Captain Mitchell C. Johnson retired with 28.7 years on April 1.



Senior Firefighter Timothy L. Woods retired with 28.7 years on April 1.



Captain Jay R. Faison retired with 28.6 years on March 1.



Senior Firefighter Sherley Moore Jr. retired with 30.2 years on March 1.



## Deaths

Retired Lt. Cleveland F. Stewart passed away in Cary on February 13. He retired in 1991 with 21 years of service.



## Retiree News

Retired Fire Educator Jan Parker (1978-2007) was the 2014 recipient of the B.T. Fowler Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by the North Carolina Fire and Life Safety Council at the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs Mid-Winter Conference in Concord in February.



The award was created in 2007 and first given to Fowler, a retired Raleigh Captain (1951-1986) who continues to be active in fire education efforts. Parker has worked for the state Office of the Fire Marshal as a Fire Prevention Specialist since 2007. ■



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NINTH ANNUAL NC FALLEN FF MEMORIAL SERVICE  
NASH SQUARE, 227 W. MARTIN STREET  
SATURDAY, MAY 3  
10:00 A.M. (PARADE), 1:00 P.M. (SERVICE)

RETIREE LUNCHEON  
KEETER TRAINING CENTER  
105 KEETER CENTER DRIVE  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 12:00 NOON

CARDIAC SAVES CEREMONY  
MEYMANDI CONCERT HALL  
2 E. SOUTH STREET, RALEIGH  
MONDAY, MAY 19, 7:00 P.M.

EIGHTH ANNUAL NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS GOLF  
TOURNAMENT  
BENTWINDS COUNTRY CLUB, FUQUAY-VARINA  
MONDAY, JUNE 16 - 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.

## TWO-YEAR-OLD GETS HIS WISH



Two-year-old cancer survivor Connor Dunn spent a day with the Raleigh Fire Department on Saturday, March 15. His wish was made a reality with the help of firefighters and Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina.

He received a helmet and his own gear, and rode in the front seat of Engine 13 in the St. Patrick's Day parade.

Connor and his family were also given a tour of Station 1 before they left, and returned after the parade for a barbecue lunch at the fire station.

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