



Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter



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Summer 2016

Raising Awareness About Suicide in the Fire Service



The month of July was designated as a “safety stand down” month for the Operations Division. Line personnel concentrated their training efforts on learning more about safety and safe practices both on and off the fire-ground.

During that month, a new wellness course about suicide prevention was taught in a series of fire station classroom meetings. The course was developed and delivered by Battalion Chief and Safety Officer Frankie Hobson and Lt. Dena Ali.

The Raleigh Fire Department Safety Officer leads an
Continued on page 2

Flooding Strikes City



On Saturday evening, July 16, a line of storms produced concentrated rainfall and significant localized flooding in Raleigh. Between three and seven inches of rain fell within a few hours. The Raleigh Fire Department was dispatched to dozens of emergency calls and requests for service, including at least thirteen reported structure fires, three of which were simultaneous working fires. There were also numerous water rescues.



Ten water rescue calls were dispatched between 9:15 p.m. and 11:15 p.m. Firefighters rescued, removed, or assisted about forty people. The most significant were flooded roads and apartments on Dana Drive.

Six people were rescued by boat from swift water conditions above a normally shallow creek. Two others were walked out of high waters. Several apartments were also affected, and crews assisted the residents.

See more photos and read an incident narrative at www.raleighfirenews.org. ■

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Raising Awareness About Suicide – Flooding
- 2 Raising Awareness About Suicide, Continued
- 3 Facility Updates
- 4 Retirements and Promotions/Appointments
- 5 Recruit Academy Graduates – Budget Approved
- 6 Class 1 Rating – Fire Hydrants Changing Color
- 7 Photo Gallery
- 8 Calendar – Remembering the Mangel’s Fire

Continued from page 1

office and a committee that analyzes all aspects of fire department operations, and makes recommendations on best practices or actions to reduce accidents and injuries. This course was one of their first forays into behavior health awareness.

The idea for the three-hour course began as a conversation between Lt. Ali and Chief Hobson in October.

Lt. Ali is a second-year graduate student at UNC Pembroke, and during her fall semester her assignment was action research. "Chief Hobson helped me select the topic of suicide prevention. Once I dove into the research, I was blown away by the statistics," says Ali.



On May 24, Lt. Ali presented research on preventing firefighter injuries to state legislators at their Graduate Education Day in downtown Raleigh.

For example, she notes, one study found that firefighter suicides in North Carolina occur three times as often as line-of-duty deaths.

"There's no formal tracking mechanism for them," she notes. "Nor is reporting of firefighter suicides required."

Getting Help is Hard for Firefighters

There's a stigma to "help seeking behavior", says Ali, and firefighters don't talk about behavioral health or suicide. "We're trying to change that in our class, and we're having an effect. The conversations are happening," she adds.

The goal of the class is to increase awareness of suicide in the fire service, and to help create a culture change in the fire department.

"Everyone needs a little help at times," says Chief Hobson, "and it's okay to ask."

Introducing Dr. Mark Holland

In April, Chief Hobson suggested to Lt. Ali that they develop the material into a course for the department. They contacted several experts, and developed the material at a basic awareness level.

One of the experts was Dr. Mark Holland, a local behavioral health counselor who works with first responders. Additionally, they received a lot of assistance from Jeff Dill, who is one of the leading advocates for firefighter behavioral health and suicide prevention.



Lt. Ali prepared most of the materials herself, with help from Chief Hobson and Battalion Chief Kevin Coppage. They also provided valuable encouragement. "I've been teaching EMS to firefighters for four years," she says. "And they helped me overcome my doubts that I might not be the best person to address such a sensitive subject."

Dr. Holland attended the first class on July 1, to ensure that the material was presented appropriately and to help field questions. He became a key part of the classroom presentation, and volunteered his time to attend almost every class.

Success Stories

The course was taught to the entire operations division, over nearly every day in July. "We've been amazed by how well the topic has been received, the level of interest from our peers, and the level of appreciation for the work we did," says Chief Hobson.

They also heard about the personal struggles of our members, and their needs and the necessity of developing this program. Others have offered to help. "I am so proud to be a part of something that is so meaningful for my department, and that hopefully will have a positive impact for the future," says Ali.

Going Forward

The Suicide Prevention class in July is only the beginning of their efforts at firefighter behavioral health. Their next step is organizing a peer support team, similar to those in other cities, and even locally at Wake County EMS. This will take a little bit of time, to get the team organized, trained, and in place.

Their plans include creating a poster for fire stations with a list of warning signs, available resources, and faces of our members. Their goal is annual training that includes success stories as part of the information, and resources to help remind our members of the importance of behavioral health. ■

Facility Updates



Construction starts in September on new **Station 12** at 807 Bus Way, at the corner of Bus Way and Poole Road.

The 17,500 square-foot facility will house Engine 12, Ladder 8 relocated from Station 26, Battalion 2, and the Division Chief, Car 20 relocated from Station 8.

The \$5.2 million project has been planned for several years. The 3.4 acre site is located across the street from the city bus depot, which moved there in recent years. The architect is Stewart-Cooper-Newell.

The current Station 12, built in 1974, is located at 3409 Poole Road, a mile west of the new site.



On Tuesday, August 9, a public meeting was held at Jaycee Park to share and discuss the design of new **Station 14**.

The fire station will be located at the corner of Harden Road and Nancy Ann Drive, with three parcels to be combined. The design is nearly identical to the new Station 12, though with different materials for the building's exterior.

The current Station 14 is located at 4220 Lake Boone Trail. It opened in 1974 and houses Squad 14. Construction is planned to start in 2017.



Renovations of **Station 2** are planned to start soon. This is the second project in a multi-year plan to renovate older fire stations not slated for replacement or relocation.

Located at 263 Pecan Road, the station is similar to many of the city's older fire stations. One exception is the adjoining former maintenance shop.

The old shop space will be repurposed as an extension of the fire station, including adding drive-through apparatus bays for Engine 2, Haz-Mat 2, and the haz-mat support units.

During the nine-month construction period, Engine 2 will relocate to the old city radio and sign shop at the corner of Wilmington Street and City Farm Road.



Renovations of **Station 5** at 300 Oberlin Road are nearly completed. The \$1.2M project started in April. During the "down to the walls" renovation, Engine 5 has been housed at nearby Station 6. Early next year, Engine 6 will move into Station 5, when work begins on the replacement **Station 6**.

Other projects planned to start during this fiscal year are renovations and expansion of **Station 11** on Glenridge Drive, renovation of **Station 15** on Spring Forest Road, and renovation of **Station 10** on Sanderford Road. ■

Division Chief Spain Retires

Division Chief Barry D. Spain retired on June 1 with 27.3 years of service.

He entered the department in February 1989 with Academy 13, with A.C. Rich, Duffy Deyo, Greg Bridges, Rob Johnson, Todd Jones, Jerry Ward, and others.

Chief Spain was promoted to First Class Firefighter in 1992, to Lieutenant in 1994, and to Captain in 1997. His first assignment as Captain was Ladder 16 for two months, and then he helped open Station 21.

In 2004, he was promoted to Battalion Chief. In 2013, he was appointed as Division Chief on "A" platoon.

As he's risen in rank, Chief Spain has always challenged himself to be his best and give 100 percent every day. "And treat everyone with respect," he adds, both at the station and on every call. "And no matter how many times you've responded to help them."

His greatest challenge as a chief officer? The April 16, 2011 tornados. "I was Acting Division Chief and trying to gain control of the city and with limited communication, because the radio system was overwhelmed."



Chief Spain will remain a Chief in retirement, as he's taken a new job as Fire Chief of Fairview Fire Department in Wake County.

"I loved my time with Raleigh and am looking forward to my new challenge with Fairview," says Spain. His plans after that? "Time with my wife Angela and some long vacations."

Editor's note: Barry is the brother of retired Asst. Chief Garry Spain, who is the father of Probationary Firefighter Colton Spain. The brothers are also the sons-in-law of retired Lt. Bobby Smith, and are also related to other past and present members. ■

Promotions & Appointments

September 1

Promoted to Captain:
Lt. Ryan C. Stagner

Promoted to Lieutenant:
Senior FF Christopher W. Ferrell

August 20

Appointed to Division Chief:
Battalion Chief Ian S. Toms
Battalion Chief Franklin C. Hobson

Appointed to Safety Officer:
Battalion Chief Gregory R. Bridges

Promoted to Battalion Chief:
Captain S. Scott White
Captain Robert T. Hodge

Promoted to Captain:
Lt. Paul M. Wyatt

Promoted to Lieutenant:
Senior FF Bobby G. Anderson

Editor's Note: Chief Toms has been assigned to Operations, Chief Hobson has been assigned to Services, in a new position replacing the Captain/Facilities Manager position.

August 9

Promoted to First Class Firefighter:

Alex A. Artze	M. Addison Lynch
Nicholas B. Banister	Alexander R. Oliver
Clarence C. Barbour	Graham S. Pearce
David W. Boyette II	Zachariah J. Reynolds
Ryan C. Bracy	Kahlil G. Robinson
Jonathan C. Braswell	Marilyn L. Rodriguez
Ryan N. Dover	Samuel R. Scott
Michael J. Fox	Kirsty E. Thayer
Brandon J. Freese	Jonathan S. Tyner
Russ M. Leaptrott	Kamilah O. Webb
Zeth W. Lee	Clayton A. Welch



Recruit Academy Graduates



On Thursday evening, August 18, Recruit Academy 41 graduated in a ceremony at the Duke Center for the Performing Arts:

Corey H. Ault	Danielle N. Low
Tyler J. Barefoot	Rodney D. McGee
Kevin C. Brandt	Davin C. Olsen
Adam S. Caban	Joshua R. Overton
Christopher B. Dillard	Jesse B. Ray
Jeremy M. Dillard	Lucas D. Rice
Jordan K. Friese	Kevin L. Ricks
Scott W. Garner	Brittany L. Rountree
Marcus L. Guess	Jonathon K. Ryneerson
Timothy W. Guffey Jr.	Mark T. Shimmel
Grace L. Hannigan	Jacob A. Slominski
Rachel V. Harless	Alexander M. Soucy
Alex R. Hellard	Colton G. Spain
Michel Hernandez	Greyson W. Talbott
Christopher J. Hinton	Ethan B. Tart
Brantly R. Hobbs	Marques L. Townsend
Sean W. Jamieson	Matthew S. White
Jason S. Joyner	Shane M. Whittington
Kenneth N. Larry II	

The thirty-seven recruits completed a twenty-nine week program. They've each received permanent station assignments and are on probationary status for six months.



Instructors

Academy 41 was led by Academy Coordinator Capt. Jamie Hill and Academy Capt. Jake Jackowski, with

instructors Lt. Frankie Beasley, Lt. Bryan Kirk, Lt. Jesse Richardson, Lt. Tony Todd, and Senior Firefighter Carl Hardee, along with EMT instructors Capt. Doug Campbell and First Class Firefighter Patrick Collins.

Capt. Jackowski and the fire instructors were reassigned to the Operations Division and returned to their station assignments upon completion of the academy.

Family Ties

Corey Ault is the brother of Firefighter Ryan Ault, Christopher Dillard is the son of Fire Equipment Mechanic Brian Dillard, and Rodney McGee is the nephew of Capt. Thomas McGee.

Joshua Overton is the son of retired Capt. Zeb Overton, Kevin Ricks is the son of retired Capt. Ronald Ricks and Colton Spain is the son of retired Asst. Chief Garry Spain and the grandson of retired Lt. Bobby Smith.

Ethan Tart is the son of Capt. Dennis Tart, Matthew White is the son of Battalion Chief Scott White, and Shane Whittington is the son of former Firefighter Robert Whittington and the grandson of retired Asst. Chief Robert Whittington.

Editor's note: Other second-generation firefighter sons and daughters include Guffey (Knightdale), J. Dillard (Durham Highway in Wake County), Hannigan (New York City), and Hobbs (Kinston). ❖

Budget Adopted

The Fiscal Year 2017 budget was adopted by City Council in June. The fire department budget was increased by 2.6% to \$56,926.303. The number of authorized positions was increased from 609 to 611.

In the Operating Budget, two additional full-time positions were added: Deputy Fire Marshal and Senior Staff Specialist. The latter converts a previously part-time funded position. Three new pieces of fire apparatus were also funded: two engines and a ladder truck.

In the Capital Improvements Project budget, \$6.6M was budgeted for the first year of a multi-year project to build a new Fire Station 1 and Administrative Offices.

Budgeted for \$23.9M over four years, the project will create a multi-story building with up to 21,000 square-feet of fire station space, up to 13,000 square-feet of administrative space, and a parking deck.

Other CIP funding for facilities includes \$6.5M over five years for ongoing fire station renovation projects. Two legacy fire stations are targeted for extensive renovation per year. ■

Raleigh Receives Class 1

The City of Raleigh has received a Public Protection Classification (PPC) Class 1 rating from the Insurance Services Office (ISO). This achievement is the highest rating possible for Raleigh's state of readiness and defense against potential fire risk and property loss.

ISO rates more than 48,000 fire protection districts across the United States and less than 0.4% (204) hold a Class 1 rating. In North Carolina, there are only eight Class 1 districts out of some 1,700.

For the past eighteen months, ISO has evaluated the city's ability to prevent, respond to, investigate, and extinguish fires. Moving from a Class 3 rating to a Class 1 establishes the City of Raleigh as a superior fire protection district, which may result in a cost savings to insurance premium payers.



Potential Cost Savings for Insurance Premiums

Insurers create their own risk model and use the PPC rating to determine their risk, and ultimately, insurance premiums within a fire district. Depending upon the insurer, citizens of Raleigh may see a reduction in their insurance premiums, though the greatest decrease is expected in the commercial property industry.

Fire protection district ratings range from Class 1 to Class 10. A Class 1 rating signifies the least risk for an insurer, while a Class 10 indicates that there is essentially no fire protection.

Fire Department, Water System, Emergency Communications Evaluated

ISO evaluates the local fire department, water distribution system, and emergency communications center. The fire department leads the evaluation process and is responsible for 50 percent of the overall score, while water and emergency communications account for 40 percent and 10 percent, respectively.

The City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department maintains two water treatment facilities, nineteen elevated water towers, 2,365 miles of water mains, and 20,817 public hydrants. There are also 6,213 privately owned

hydrants connected to Raleigh's water distribution system. Both public and private hydrants must meet the same standards and flow capacity requirements during the ISO evaluation.

The Raleigh/Wake Emergency Communications Center received a near perfect rating from ISO. In 2015, they processed 619,499 calls.

Class 1 Fire Department

The Raleigh Fire Department operates twenty-nine engines and nine ladders from twenty-eight fire stations. In 2015, they answered 38,053 calls.

In addition to fire suppression, they provide first responder EMT, technical rescue, and haz-mat response services, and participate in a regional Urban Search and Rescue team (USAR), and serve as a state Haz-Mat Regional Response Team (RRT).

These additional services enhance the fire department's mission, but are not part of the ISO evaluation of fire protection capabilities.

The city has historically maintained a Class 3 rating. The Class 1 rating took effect on August 1. The next scheduled ISO evaluation will occur around December 2018.

The rating improvement was achieved through the hard work of a group of twenty-five employees from the three city departments. ❖

Fire Hydrants Changing Colors

Starting this summer, Public Utilities will begin changing the color of public fire hydrants from red to yellow. The caps will remain painted chrome silver.

The new color aligns with NFPA requirements, and matches the color in neighboring communities that also use the City of Raleigh water system.

Private fire hydrants will remain red. There are over 27,000 hydrants in the city, including over 20,000 public fire hydrants.

The change will take several years to complete. New yellow hydrants are already being installed around the city.

Public Utilities is responsible for maintaining the city's public fire hydrants. ■



Photo Gallery



Crews distribute bottled water to evacuees from Crabtree Valley Mall, after a reported shooting on Saturday, August 20. No gunshot victims were found, but several medical emergencies were reported during and after the evacuation. Four engine companies assisted.



Station 7 was damaged on June 29, when a sport-utility vehicle crashed through the bay doors after a motor-vehicle collision on Raleigh Boulevard. Squad 7 was out of quarters at the time of the incident. The driver and occupants were transported to the hospital.



Two alarms were struck at 2420 Pumpkin Ridge Way on May 28. Originally dispatched as an outside fire, it was upgraded while first-due Engine 21 was in route. Upon arrival, flames had already extended to the home next door and a second alarm was requested.



Department members helped promote their new social organization, Raleigh Firefighters United, at the Destination Dix outdoor event on Saturday, July 23. Pictured left to right are Travis Holland, Chris Ferrell, Ian Griffin, and Kelly Holland.

Formed in early June, the group's mission is to enrich the lives of members of the Raleigh Fire Department and the communities they serve through education, fellowship, and outreach.



They're working on several projects, including planning a family outing or picnic and developing a discount card for local businesses. They're also raising money to fund billboards and other marketing materials, to raise awareness about the need for higher firefighter salaries.

Learn more at www.raleighfirefightersunited.com, or follow them on Facebook and Twitter. ■

Fleet Services has received eight new lifts. They have greatly expanded the capability and efficiency for working underneath vehicles. Two pumpers or ladders can be raised at once, or one of the tillers can be lifted, using six of the eight lifts.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FALL PROMOTIONAL CEREMONY

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 222 W. HARGETT STREET
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 7:00 P.M.

RALEIGH FIRE MUSEUM

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

MONTHLY RETIREE BREAKFAST

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

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. TO LEARN ABOUT THE RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT, VISIT www.raleigh-nc.org/fire.

Remembering the Mangel's Building Fire



Thirty-five years ago this summer, the Mangel's Building on the Fayetteville Street Mall burned. The four-alarm fire on July 7, 1981, was one of the biggest downtown fires in decades.

Historian Mike Legeros has compiled stories, photos, diagrams, and data about the fire, including oral histories from firefighters who were there that day. Travel back in time at www.raleighfiremuseum.org/content/mangel. ■