

**Original  
Knightdale Fire Department**



0090023 01/07/2003



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## A Chronology

### **Knightdale Volunteer Fire Department**

- October 27, 1953 A group of men from the community met with the sole purpose to form an organization which would eventually become the **Knightdale Volunteer Fire Department**.
- Early 1954 The town already had a 1½ ton truck which the firemen had equipped for fire fighting.
- October, 1954 The department was Incorporated. It was also chartered by the State of North Carolina. (See page at end)
- May, 1955 A 1942 model fire truck which was Navy surplus was purchased for \$1,250. Equipped with a 500 Gal tank, 750 GPM pump, 600 Ft of 1½ inch hose.
- August, 1955 KVFD joins the Wake County rural fire protection program and solicits members from a 5 mile radius of the town.
- Officers:** R. Griffin Chief, C. Smith Asst Chief, O.W. Hedrick Sec / Treas.
- April 19, 1956 Originally organized to meet every third Thursday, a motion was made by O.W. Hederick to meet every first and third Thursday. Nominations and/or elections are to be held on the first Thursday in May.
- May 3, 1956 A phone extension was to be maintained and a fireman was to be on duty at the firehouse from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- Regular meetings were also supper meetings for a number of years.
- Firemen in 1956 received \$1 per meeting attended.
- A motion made by E.O. Robinson, that members be accepted for approval upon a 75% affirmative vote.
- December 5, 1957 The fire district was named by a motion from O.W. Hederick and seconded by Ashley Wilder. The district at that time was to be called "**ALERT**"
- A motion was made by O.W. and seconded by A. Wilder to participate in a radio hook-up. They started with one base station and two mobiles.
- February 6, 1958 Got first walkie-talkie
- March, 1959 Purchased American Lafrance fire truck at \$12,506.



### **First Fire Truck**

- August 6, 1959      A motion made by O.W. and seconded by Mr. Harper, that two bays be added to the north side of the present building. (See front cover photo-top vs photo in content of text)
- March, 1960        The department was divided into two sections - Town and Rural.
- April, 1960,        Firemens salary be dropped by Town, but would be giving them a Christmas supper each year. Motion made by Boonie Harrell and seconded by Ed Terry.
- May, 1967          Motion made by G.E. Robertson, seconded by William Pope and carried unanimous to build a recreation room. above the newest section of the fire house. Estimate of cost is \$1, 850. Work to begin Saturday, May 4.
- July, 1967          Voted to sponsor a boy's football team - 7th and 8th grades. Uniforms being red and white.
- February, 1969     Had a Donkey Basketball Game against WKIX Men of Music.
- March, 1971        Started to cover service for New Hope for their Christmas suppers.
- August, 1971        Members voted to get tax support from Wake County.
- May, 1975          KVFD now has 42 fireman as members of the volunteer squad.
- August 5, 1976     Fire roars thru Sanctuary of Bethlehem Baptist church.

- October, 1976      Wives of several firemen wanted to organize a Ladies Auxiliary. Motion made by W.H. Pope and seconded by Charles Dean to give the women \$100 to get started. (Unanimous)
- January, 1977      Ladies Auxillary forms ( See A page from the past at end)
- 1978                KVFD firemen show off their new Rural Fire Truck.
- November, 1978    Blaze guts mobile home at Poole Rd and Neuse River.

A quick look at a letterhead and informational page from a time frame of February 1982 shows the following items of interest and more.

- Serving “**Alert**” fire district and Town of Knightdale
- All fire departments which were certified and chartered by the State of North Carolina were required by the State law to serve a 4 square mile fire district.
- There is presently a bill before the North Carolina General Assembly to extend all certified and chartered fire district boundaries to 5 square miles.
- Knightdale Fire Department has 7 fire fighting units, Consisting of:

ENGINE # 1 (Pumper) 1000'gal pump, 750 water tank, *Fully equipped*  
 TANKER # 2 1500 gal water tank, Equipped for Quick Dump Operation.  
 TANKER # 3. 1450 gal water tank, Equipped for Quick Dump Operation (2000gal pool)  
 ENGINE # 4 (Pumper) Brush Truck 240 gal water tank  
 ENGINE # 5 (Pumper) 750 gal pump,.. 500 gal water tank; *Fully equipped.*  
 TRUCK # 6 Equipment Unit, generator, lights, Breathing equipment, etc.  
 ENGINE # 7 (Pumper) 1000 gal pump, 750 gal water tank, *Fully equipped.*

- Automatic mutual aid upon request of officer in charge.
- Knightdale fire department is operated / manpower with 36 certified trained firemen. All firemen are certified & trained by the Department of Insurance of the state of N.C.
- Officers in command ( all trained and highly qualified)
- 1- chief 100
- 1- deputy chief 101
- 2- assistant chiefs 102- 103
- Each fire unit has a certified trained officer on each fireunit when on call.
- (captain in charge of unit)



### Original 401 Hester Street

- January, 1983      KVFD assisted in a late night fire at Whitley Furniture in Zebulon.  
Eagle Rock Grocery gutted by fire, KVFD called for assistance.  
O.W. Hedrick, a charter member who retired last year recalls when fire calls were dispatched from the Spic and Span Dry Cleaners on First Avenue.
- July, 1983      The fire department ran 186 calls during the 1982-83 fiscal year. These calls which resulted in nearly \$60,000 worth of damage.
- August, 1983      125 Employees evacuated from the Square D plant due to a Chlorine gas leak. 15 people injured, 8 firefighters were treated at local hospitals.
- December, 1983      **Officers:** G. Gupto chief, Vann Pair Deputy, K. McDade Rural, R. Wall Town.  
Recent retirees John Parrish 30yrs, W.H. Pope 24 and H.V. Pair 24
- August, 1984      KVFD called to assist on a Chlorine gas leak at US 1 and Lake Gresham.
- December, 1985      Blaze damages 2 greenhouses at Mayor Billy Wilder's nursery
- August, 1985      Call for bids on the building expansion has taken place and they will be opened at the station on Thursday, Aug 29 at 8p.m.
- September, 1985      **NO BIDS**, so we will try advertising again says chief Gupton.
- February, 1986      Addition almost complete, due for completion by end of month says chief.

August, 1986      New truck – Tanker #3 1200 Gal Tank, 450 GPM pump  
300 evacuated for a Chlorine gas leak on Smithfield Rd.

October, 1986      KVFD holds open house for fire prevention week.

December, 1986      **Officers:** G. Gupto chief, Vann Pair Deputy,  
The department answered 350-360 calls in 1986 and has 40 members.

August, 1987      Knightdale Fire Ladies Auxilliary win “Most Helpful Ladies Aux. of the Year”  
award to beat out 600 groups across the state.

1989                  The department answered 261 calls (Town 36) (Rural 225)

1990                  The department answered 246 calls (Town 29) (Rural 217)

1991                  The department answered 280 calls (Town 46) (Rural 234)

1992                  The department answered 289 calls (Town 49) (Rural 240)

1993                  The department answered 331 calls (Town 62) (Rural 269)

1994                  The department answered 421 calls (Town 92) (Rural 329)

1995                  The department answered 493 calls (Town 125) (Rural 368)  
  
The new station #1 on Poole Rd opened in December of this year.

1996                  The department answered 970 calls (Town 304) (Rural 666)

1997                  The department answered 913 calls (Town 251) (Rural 662)

1998                  The department answered 884 calls (Town 260) (Rural 624)  
First Responder Service Began.

1999                  The department answered 1280 calls (Town 366) (Rural 914)  
(EMS 602) (EMS Rural 430)

2000                  The department answered 1330 calls (Town 410) (Rural 920)  
(EMS 698) (EMS Rural 458)

2001                  The department answered 1536 calls (Town 520) (Rural 1016)  
(EMS 733) (EMS Rural 449)

2002                  The department answered 1436 calls (Town 235) (Rural 1201)  
(EMS 720)

2003

On March 25<sup>th</sup> of this year the Department had a name change and is now officially called **Eastern Wake Fire and Rescue Department**. The department carries the same fine staffing and equipment as it had formerly. It is now a part of the County system and the name change was mandated because the town started it's own Fire department and used the name- Knightdale.

The department answered 1166 calls (Rural) (Fire related 568 (EMS 598)

The Equipment Schedule at the time of becoming EWF&R was:

Engine # 1 (Pumper)  
Tanker # 3 1xxx Gal water tank, Equiped for ?  
Engine # 2 (Pumper)  
Engine # 5 (Pumper)  
Engine # 6 (Pumper) Brush Truck  
Engine # 7 (Pumper) Brush Truck  
Truck # 11  
Car # 1

2004-5

2006

Old water tower next to Hester Street Station #2 taken down.

Fire station #2 is undergoing a major renuvation at the time of this writing in June of 2006

## **Chiefs** (over the years)

1954 & 1955	Randolph Griffin
1956	Charles Smith
1957	Bernice Wall
1958	John Parrish
1959 & 1960	E.O Robinson
1961 – 1974	Bernice Wall
1975	Herbert Pair
1976 & 1977	Bernice Wall
1978	Bernice Wall (Deceased) George Gupton Acting
1979 – 2006	George Gupton

FIELD: SMITH, DEBINAM, HISSERT & PAHL, CERT. CO.  
P. O. DRAWER 26268  
RALEIGH, N. C. 27611-6268

BK4650PG0720



**To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:**

*I, Chad Eure, Secretary of State of the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify the following and hereto attached ( Four (4) sheets) to be a true copy of the Certificate* OF INCORPORATION OF

THE KNIGHTDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

*and the probates thereon, as the same is taken from and compared with the original filed in this office on the 27th day of October A.D., 19 54.*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal.*

*Done in Office, at Raleigh, this 27th day of October in the year of our Lord 19 54.*



## A page from the past

### Knightsdale Volunteer Fire Department Ladies' Auxiliary Meeting

January 31, 1977

In October, 1976, the firemen gave \$100.00 to the wives to organize the Ladies' Auxiliary.

On January 31, 1977, a meeting was held at the Knightsdale Volunteer Fire Department. There were ten ladies present.

A motion to form a Ladies' Auxiliary was made and seconded. The vote was carried unanimously. Officers were then elected and were as follows:

President.....Emogene Driver  
Vice-President           Shelby Braswell  
Secretary-Treasurer.....Betty Couick

A Committee was formed to draw up By-Laws and a Constitution. The Committee was made up of Betty Wall, Ann Williams and Dot Parrish, who were to present a copy to the membership for vote at the next Auxiliary Meeting.

It was decided that future meetings would be held at the Fire Department at 8:00 p.m. on the last Monday night of each month.

The meeting was then adjourned.

#### Charter Members

Emogene Driver  
Ann Williams  
Doris Woodard  
Buzz Pair  
Betty Couick

Ann Wall  
Shelby Braswell  
Joyce Proctor  
Dot Parrish  
Betty Wall